



**Original: English**

**OIC/CFM-44/2017/ECO/RES/FINAL**

**RESOLUTIONS**  
**ON**  
**ECONOMIC ISSUES**  
***ADOPTED BY THE***  
**44<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF**  
**THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (CFM)**

*(SESSION OF YOUTH, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT  
IN A WORLD OF SOLIDARITY)*

**ABIDJAN, REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE**  
**10-11 JULY 2017**

| <b>No.</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Page</b> |
|------------|---|-------------|
| <b>I</b>   | <p align="center"><b>Resolution No. 1/44-E:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>On Agriculture, Trade, Tourism And Transportation</b></p>  | 3           |
| <b>II</b>  | <p align="center"><b>Resolution No. 2/44-E:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>On Employment, Private Sector And Poverty Alleviation</b></p>  | 13          |
| <b>III</b> | <p align="center"><b>Resolution No. 3/44-E:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>On Economic Assistance to OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in Disputed/Occupied Territories and Non-OIC Countries Within the OIC Mandate</b></p> | 20          |
| <b>IV</b>  | <p align="center"><b>Resolution No. 4/44-E:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>On Implementation of Decisions of the COMCEC</b></p>   | 26          |
| <b>V</b>   | <p align="center"><b>Resolution No. 5/44-E:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>On Activities of the Relevant OIC Institutions Working in the Economic Domain</b></p>  | 28          |

**RESOLUTION No.1/44-E**  
**ON**  
**AGRICULTURE, TRADE, TOURISM AND TRANSPORTATION**

*The Forty Fourth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,*

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

**Reaffirming** the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 21-24 November 2016,

**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 various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, SMIIC and OISA,

**Having considered** the Report of the Secretary General,

**A. AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY**

**Recalling** the relevant goals relating to agriculture, rural development and food security, enshrined in the above-mentioned OIC-2025: Programme of Action,

**Reaffirming** the Resolution on Promoting Food Security and Agricultural Development in OIC Member States 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,

**Taking note of** the on-going efforts towards the putting in place the Secretariat of the IOFS in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, particularly the finalization of the Headquarters Agreement between IOFS and the Government of Kazakhstan,

**Also taking note of** the ratification of the Statute of Islamic Organization for Food Security by the Islamic Republic of the Gambia in October 2016,

**Welcoming** the conclusion of the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between IOFS and International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA); the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF); and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), respectively, towards implementing joint projects,

**Reiterating** the role of the newly created Islamic Organization for Food Security, as an OIC specialized institution, in coordinating and implementing OIC policies and programmes on agriculture, rural development and food security,

**Recognising** the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation among OIC Member States by exchanging experiences, sharing knowledge and transferring technology for sustainable agricultural development, especially IDB's Reverse Linkage (RL) initiative,

**Expressing concern** at the increasing rate of undernourishment, which is affecting more than 166 million people in OIC Member States,

**Conscious of** the role of agriculture and rural development in promoting food security and poverty alleviation in OIC Member States, including its significant contribution to inclusive economic growth, social stability and the sustainable use of natural resources,

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

1. **Commends** the Republic of The Gambia for its ratification of the Statute of IOFS and **calls on** all Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and

ratify the Statute , so that it can enter into force, and the IOFS can become fully operational;

2. **Also commends** the Government of Kazakhstan for the progress made with regard to the establishment of IOFS Secretariat and the execution of its headquarters agreement;
3. **Requests** the IOFS to work for a ten year plan of action in consultation and coordination with the OIC institutions, including IDB, and in conformity with the OIC-2025: Programme of Action;
4. **Requests** the IOFS to identify, develop and work for various projects in broader agricultural sector (agriculture, aquaculture, livestock), including those of lease farming with the involvement of private sector, especially young private sector entrepreneurs at SME levels to contribute to the food and seed banks of IOFS as conceived under IOFS;
5. **Encourages** the IOFS to promote organic farming of food to ensure nutrition and need for healthy food as well as to support production, commercialization, promotion, and popularization of organic pesticides through various incentives;
6. **Urges** Member States to foster closer and more effective South-South cooperation among themselves through exchange of experiences, sharing knowledge and transferring technology for sustainable agricultural development, taking into account the different agricultural policies among OIC Member States, and replicating best farming practices conducive to the protection and appropriate utilization of resources;
7. **Supports** IDB's Reverse Linkage projects in the domain of agriculture and rural development and **invites** Member States, which have capacities and resources, to establish such cooperation models for needy OIC Member States;
8. **Reiterates** the need for the timely and full implementation of all the relevant resolutions of OIC concerning agriculture and food security by its Member States and institutions.

## **B. INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**Reaffirming** the Resolution No.1/43-E adopted by 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016, with regard to intra-OIC trade and investment,

**Taking note** of the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, especially those adopted by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 21-24 November 2016,

**Taking note** of the decision of the Joint General Assembly of Subsidiary Institutions, particularly with regard to the activities of ICDT and SESRIC on trade and investment-related issues,

**Expressing satisfaction** at the steady increase in the total value of intra-OIC trade in commodities which was US\$ 694.23 billion in 2015, as well as the increase in the volume of intra-OIC trade from 19.33% in 2014 to 20.33% in 2015,

**Noting with satisfaction** the various actions and interventions of members of the IDB Group in the area of trade financing, which featured cumulative trade approvals by International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) to the tune of US\$ 4.48 billion in 2016, and the various business insurances by ICIEC amounting to US\$ 4.47 billion in 2016,

**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,

**Also commending** the efforts of the Secretary General for the increase coordination of activities trade and investment promoting agencies of OIC Member States and OIC institutions working in the domain of trade,

**Further commending** the contributions of the various OIC institutions, including ICDT, SESRIC, IDB, ITFC, ICIEC, ICD and SMIIC in the overall implementation of relevant OIC resolutions on trade and investment promotion,

**Expressing** appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for convening the World Halal Summit (WHS), in cooperation with SMIIC, held in Istanbul, on 15-17 December 2016,

1. **Calls on** all Member States to furnish database of their trade and investment promotion agencies in order to design relevant capacity building and exchange of best practices among the said agencies;
2. **Invites** all Member States to develop trade related capacity-building programmes for the needy OIC Member States under the triangular and South-South Cooperation programmes among OIC Member States;
3. **Also invites** the IDB Group (ITFC and ICD) and ICCIA and other private sector entities in OIC Member States to participate actively in the biennial

Islamic Trade Fairs and other OIC Specialized Trade Fairs, Exhibitions and Forums.

### C. **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

**Pursuant to** the provisions of the OIC Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism among OIC Member States adopted by 6<sup>th</sup> 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 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October 2016,

**Expressing** satisfaction at the outcomes of the Workshop on the Future Tourism development in Konya, and International Symposium on Konya in Islamic Civilization, held in Konya, Republic of Turkey on 15-16 November 2016 and on 17-19 December 2016 respectively, for the commemoration of the OIC City of Tourism Award 2017,

**Welcoming** the launching of Madinah Al Munawwarah as OIC City of Tourism 2017, held in Madinah on 18 February 2017,

**Expressing** its satisfaction at the various programmes/activities commemorating the OIC City of Tourism Award 2017 (Madinah Al Munawwarah), proposed by the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and relevant institutions of the OIC,

**Also expressing** appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Working Group on Islamic Tourism, held in Padang, on 29 September 2016,

**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,

**Noting with appreciation** the Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market, prepared by ICDT, and research reports conducted by the COMCEC Coordination Office on supply and demand aspects of the Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT), product development and marketing strategies as well as regulations for MFT accommodation establishments,

**Commending** the contributions of the various OIC Institutions in the development of Tourism Sector, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IRCICA, IDB Group, ISESCO, ICCIA and SMIIC,

1. **Calls on** all Member States to take advantage of their participation at the various commemorative ceremonies and activities in Madinah Al-Munawwarah as the OIC City of Tourism 2017 to promote intra-OIC tourism;
2. **Invites** the General Secretariat to liaise with the Islamic Republic of Iran on early arrangements for the commemoration of OIC City of Tourism, 2018 (Tabriz);
3. **Urges** relevant OIC institutions to support member states in organizing annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flows, through visa facilitation to the extent permitted by the laws of each Member State, investment promotion, branding and standardization, and capacity building;
4. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to encourage their private sector entities to invest individually and jointly in the tourism infrastructure and development projects in member states and requests the OIC institutions to support such joint or collective investment projects with financing and policy facilitation;
5. **Also calls on** SMIIC to create the appropriate standards for the development of expanded Islamic tourist activity among the Member States;
6. **Further calls on** OIC Member States and their respective Private Sector entities to promote intra-OIC tourism by actively participating in the Third OIC Tourism Fair, scheduled to be held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 18-21 October 2017, including the sideline event, the Forum on Public-Private Investors in the area of Tourism, in cooperation and collaboration with the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum;
7. **Urges** all Member States to actively participate in the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) to be held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 12-14 November 2017.

#### **D. TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT**

**Recalling** the Resolution No.5/11-E (IS) adopted by the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 13-14 March 2008,

**Also recalling** the relevant goals relating to transportation, enshrined in the OIC-2025: Programme of Action adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-15 April 2016,



**Further 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,

**Acknowledging** the important role of transport corridors in promoting connectivity, enhancing trade relations and ensuring cooperation for sustainable development in OIC Member States, including the need for comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal integrated corridors among them,

**Convinced** of the major contribution of effective transportation infrastructure to inclusive and sustainable development, which unlocks productive potentials by connecting people to opportunities and businesses to markets,

**Emphasizing** the need for OIC Member States to promote safe and environmentally sound intermodal or multimodal transport corridors with physical and operational connectivity,

**Conscious of** the fact that transportation networks among OIC Member States remain poorly connected,

**Highlighting** the need for revival of OIC Ministerial Conference on Transportation in order to review the implementation of all the relevant OIC resolutions concerning transportation, in view of contemporary developmental challenges and attendant changing business environment,

**Expressing** appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Sudan for its offer to host the Second Islamic Conference of Transport Ministers in 2017,

**Recognizing** the fact that the implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project can be more effective within a multi-modal transport corridor,

**Aware** of the on-going consideration by IDB in respect of Senegal's submission for the financing of its national component of Dakar-Bamako-Sikasso-Bobo-Dioulasso Railway project, which represents an important segment of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor,

**In the light of** the Information Note circulated by the General Secretariat with regard to the proposed convening of the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers,

**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 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, and **encouraging** the latter to further increase their efforts towards mobilizing financial and technical assistance to OIC Member States in this regard,

1. **Welcomes** the offer by the Government of the Republic of Sudan to host the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers during the second half of 2017 and **calls on** all Member States to actively participate in the said Conference;
2. **Renews its earlier call** on concerned Member States to prepare and submit their well-designed projects bearing on their national components of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor for securing adequate technical support and financing from OIC Member States and its development partners;
3. **Calls upon** OIC Member States to work towards developing integrated intermodal transport systems at the national and regional levels that optimally will combine the strengths of various modes of transport and help to achieve transport connectivity in the OIC region and sub-regions, including those left outside the OIC wide multimodal connectivity and economic integration programme;
4. **Requests** the General Secretariat to undertake a study for the feasibility of the introduction of OIC regular shipping services to enhance and expand OIC multi-modal connectivity and thereby promoting intra OIC trade and economic integration;
5. **Takes note** that the implementation of the Agreement on Transport Corridor – Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman (Ashgabat Agreement) serves for development of transport communications among the OIC Member States.

E. **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION POLICY**

**Recalling** the relevant provisions of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action with regard to promoting activities aimed at achieving economic and social development in OIC Member States,

**Also recalling** the Final Communiqué of the 13<sup>th</sup> 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,

**Further recalling** the provisions of the Resolution No.3/40-E adopted by 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea on 9-11 December 2013, with regard to expansion of IDB's Youth Employment Support (YES) programme to OIC African Member States,

**Reiterating** the provisions of the Resolution No. 3/41-E adopted by 41<sup>st</sup> 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 provisions of the Resolution No. 3/43-E adopted by 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan 18-19 October 2016, with regard to the elaboration of OIC policy on infrastructure and regional integration as well as the endorsement of the Special Programme for Central Asia,

**Taking note** of the Resolution of the 29th Session of COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 18-21 November 2013, with regard to the "Aid for Trade (AfT) Initiative to the Arab States of OIC" launched by the International Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and aimed at expanding trade,

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

**Underscoring** the importance of regional integration for acceleration of economic growth, social progress and cultural development as well as promotion of regional peace and stability,

**Noting** the important role played by infrastructure in facilitating the physical integration of OIC economies,

**Also noting** the preparation and circulation by the General Secretariat of a Zero Draft 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,

**Further noting** the comments made by some OIC Member States on the Zero Draft OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy,

1. **Commends** Member States, which have so far submitted their comments on the Zero Draft of OIC-IDRIP and **requests** other Member States to submit theirs in a timely manner;
2. **Requests** the Secretary General to convene an OIC Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to propose a Draft OIC Infrastructure Development and

Regional Integration Policy, in consultation with the relevant OIC Institutions/Organs, including COMCEC, IDB and SESRIC;

3. **Encourages** Member States of different OIC regions and sub-regions to come up with joint projects of infrastructure development and multi-modal connectivity for a pragmatic and building block approach to the economic integration of the Muslim Ummah, and **requests** OIC institutions, particularly the IDB to engage in substantive partnership with them under special infrastructure development programmes;
4. **Reiterates** the call on Member States, Islamic Development Bank Group and other relevant OIC organs and institutions to demonstrate solidarity, provide committed support and develop a comprehensive Strategic Program/Roadmap for the next decade on the practical implementation and resource mobilization for the “Islamic Infrastructure Integration Initiative” proposed by Kazakhstan;
5. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 43rd Meeting of the CFM, **reiterates** its requests to the IDB, 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 45th CFM.

**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 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

-----

**RESOLUTION No. 2/44-E**  
**ON**  
**EMPLOYMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

*The Forty Fourth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,*

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

**Reaffirming** the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 21-24 November 2016,

**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 various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, SMIIC and OISA,

**Having considered** the Report of the Secretary General,

**A. LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**Recalling** the relevant goals relating to labour, employment and social protection, enshrined in the above-mentioned OIC-2025: Programme of Action,

**Reaffirming** the importance of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection adopted at the Second Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM), as the basic framework for the promotion of intra-OIC cooperation on labour, employment and social protection,

**Recalling** the outcomes of the Third Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 to 30 October 2015, including its Resolution and Declaration,

**Reiterating** the adoption of the Statute of OIC Labour Centre as an OIC specialized institution to be headquartered in Baku, Azerbaijan, by the 43<sup>rd</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers,

**Aware of** the challenges posed by the increasing rate of unemployment to the developmental efforts of OIC Member States,

**Regretting** the slow progress in the operationalisation of the Executive Programme for the Implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection,

**Emphasizing** the crucial role of productive employment and decent work for all in promoting sustainable development in OIC Member States,

**Reaffirming** the need for prioritization of training and skills development to increase employability of the workforce and its adaptability to changing labour markets;

**Expressing** appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its offer to host the Fourth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) on 29-30 November 2017, and **taking note** of the statement of Turkey to the effect that it will submit its proposal to establish cooperation among Trade Unions of the OIC Member States at the Fourth Session of ICLM together with a Concept Paper ahead of time,

**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. **Renews its call** on Member States, which sponsored specific projects under the Executive Programme for the Implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, to intensify efforts towards implementing these projects. In this regard, it commends the Republic of Indonesia for organizing the Workshop on Promoting Research and Study on Islamic Concepts and Practices concerning labour matter in Jakarta, Indonesia on 12 April 2017, as welcomed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers and 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers;

2. **Calls upon** Member States to sign and ratify the Statute of OIC Labour Centre to be headquartered in Baku, Azerbaijan, at their earliest convenience in order to enable early take-off of the Centre;
3. **Urges** Member States to promote joint researches and sharing of best practices and methodologies among themselves in common areas of interest, especially concerning strategies on employment promotion, skills development, and labour protection;
4. **Welcomes** the offer of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) on 29-30 November 2017 and **invites** all Member States to actively participate in this event.

## **B. PRIVATE SECTOR**

**Recalling** the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, which prioritizes the role of the Private Sector for increasing investment and trade, economic growth, industrialization and structural transformation in OIC member states,

**Reaffirming** the relevant provisions of the Resolution No.1/43-E adopted by 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

**Taking note** of the relevant resolutions of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 21-24 November 2016,

**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,

**Also taking** note of the activities under the ISFD with regard to micro-finance support for Small and Medium Enterprises,

**Commending** the role of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), in supporting the economic development of OIC Member States through the provision of finance for private sector projects, promoting competition and entrepreneurship,

**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** Member States to mainstream the role of the Private Sector for the advancement of socio-economic cooperation within the OIC, and requests the Secretary General in collaboration of relevant OIC institutions to organize Private Sector events in OIC Member States for this purpose;
2. **Urges** OIC Member States, which have not yet done so, to consider acceding to the Articles of Agreement of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) in its capacity as one of the members of IDB Group;
3. **Requests** OIC 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;
4. **Renews its call on** ICCIA to actively participate at the organization of the Islamic Tourism Forum in collaboration with other Public Sector establishments in OIC Member States;
5. **Calls upon** all OIC institutions working in the domain of trade promotion, to coordinate their respective actions with ICCIA with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and wider coverage of OIC trade fairs, exhibitions and specialized forums;
6. **Calls upon** Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) to conduct analytical information on the best practices in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises.

### **C. 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 development of Islamic financial products,

**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 relevant provisions of the Resolutions on Economic Issues adopted by 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,



**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. Development of Islamic Micro- and Social Finance:**

**Recognizing** the increasing role of microfinance in alleviating poverty and enhancing social development in OIC Member States,

**Recognizing also** the imperatives of concessional financing for the purpose of economic empowerment of the vulnerable groups in OIC Member States,

**Bearing in mind** that Islamic social finance can potentially meet the resource gap for poverty alleviation and addressing the problem of financial exclusion in OIC Member States,

**Conscious of** the importance of providing access to financial instruments and services, such as credit, savings, insurance and other financial products and services, for the poor people,

**Taking note** of the approval of US\$111.47 million by the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) for financing a number of projects in the various OIC countries under its Microfinance Support Programme (MFSP),

**Noting with appreciation** the work of International Conferences on Zakah, which were held in various OIC Member States from 1984 to 2010, and **noting also** their key recommendation to establish a Forum among Zakah institutions,

**Taking note** of the outcome of the Seminar of Islamic Microfinance for Poverty Alleviation in OIC Member States, held in Bogor, Republic of Indonesia, on 14-15 May 2016,

**Commending** the continuous efforts of IDB Group, particularly IRTI towards developing Islamic social finance sector in OIC Member States as well as documenting national experiences in this direction,

1. **Requests** OIC Member States to create necessary legal and regulatory environment and supporting infrastructure in order to promote development of microfinance institutions, including Islamic micro- and social finance industry as well as to increase access of the poor people, micro and small enterprises to financial services;
2. **Invites** Member States and relevant OIC institutions to support the efforts of the needy OIC Member States in capacity-building for microfinance institutions to expand their products and services, including by improving their policy and regulatory framework;

3. **Requests** the Secretary General, in collaboration with Member States and relevant OIC institutions, to organize a Forum of Zakah Institutions and Providers in OIC Member States with a view to examining ways and means of effective utilization of Islamic social finance, including Waqf for financing development projects in OIC Member States;
4. **Requests** the General Secretariat to devise and suggest system(s) of collecting social finance nationally in the Member States and developing a model of utilizing the fund with contribution or co-financing from OIC institutions for the purposes of poverty alleviation, social welfare and easily accessible services for the poorest of the poor. For that, views and concepts may be sought from Member States and the model(s) may initially be tested in some small scale pilot projects/initiatives;
5. **Also requests** the General Secretariat to compile and facilitate sharing of best practices of the models of micro-savings as well from Member States like Bangladesh and disseminate the same among member states for possible replication.

## **II. Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD):**

**Recalling** the relevant provisions of Final Communique of the 13<sup>th</sup> 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),

**Recalling** the relevant Resolutions adopted by 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

**Reaffirming** its relevant Resolutions on the mobilization of funds for the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD),

**Noting** the new commitments received made to the ISFD during 2016 from Turkmenistan, Gambia, Guinea, and Comoros amounting to US\$ 2.3 million as well as paid up capital by IDB (US\$ 100 million) and Bangladesh US\$ 1 million),

**Also noting with satisfaction** the expression made by Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Jordan, Nigeria, and Morocco to commit allocation of Waqf landed property as in kind contribution to the ISFD,

**Reiterating** the need for further mobilisation of funds in order to make-up for the funding gap of US\$ 7.52 billion to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development,

**Emphasizing** the need to increase disbursements on microfinance, vocational education and training, agriculture and food security programmes, and devising an Islamic model on investing the funds in undertakings and activities for poverty alleviation and development,

**Also emphasizing** the need to increase financial contributions to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development 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. **Calls upon** OIC Member States to redeem their respective pledges to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and to consider making additional commitments on a voluntary basis, including allocation of Waqf in favour of ISFD so as to achieve the target capital of the said Fund, which is US\$ 10 billion;
2. **Calls** for elaboration, through the committees of PRs, of guidelines and procedures on the Islamic model of investing and managing of ISFD with clearly defined criteria, principles, categories of beneficiaries, types of projects, disbursement and repayment modes, etc, in order to encourage private sectors, NGOs and philanthropists to contribute to ISFD and get involved in ISFD projects and activities;
3. **Also calls upon** Private and NGOs sectors, philanthropists and high net-worth individuals in OIC Member States to actively participate in the Fund;
4. **Reiterates its request** to the OIC Secretary General and President of IDB to convene a fund mobilization session in order to mobilize additional funds for ISFD;
5. **Requests** the ISFD authorities to hold workshops in Member States having potentials for ISFD investment with involvement of stakeholders including relevant Government authorities including Waqf related bodies to familiarize opportunities, ways and procedures of Waqf based investment projects;
6. **Invites** the Secretary General to continue to report on the activities of ISFD, including relevant details of poverty alleviation programmes and financial disbursements thereto.

#### **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 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

-----

**RESOLUTION No. 3/44-E**  
**ON**  
**ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO OIC MEMBER STATES AND**  
**MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN DISPUTED/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND**  
**NON-OIC COUNTRIES WITHIN THE OIC MANDATE**

*The Forty Fourth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,*

**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.4/43-E adopted by 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016, with regard to Economic Assistance to the OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in Disputed/Occupied and non-OIC countries within the OIC mandate,

**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,

**Concerned** about the obstacles OIC Member States face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained socio-economic development,

**Recognizing** that the development assistance from well-endowed OIC Member States can only complement national efforts towards achieving sustainable development,

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

1. **Encourages** 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. **Requests** OIC Member States to promote incentives for private sector to establish businesses in the needy OIC Member States;
3. **Renews its earlier call** 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,

**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.

### *ii. Assistance to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Lake Chad Basin countries affected by the activities of Boko Haram Terrorist Group*

**Guided** by the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),

**Recalling** all previous OIC resolutions, decisions, statements and declarations on the protection of Internally Displaced Persons,

**Noting** the 1998 United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the 2012 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention),

**Also taking note** of the report of the OIC Mission to Nigeria from 17-21 July, 2016, on the Assessment of the Humanitarian Needs of Nigeria, in the wake of the challenging humanitarian conditions as a result of the activities of Boko Haram,

**Commending** OIC and countries of Lake Chad Basin Commission for the role they have played in addressing specific needs of Internally Displaced Persons within their territories,

**Also commending** OIC's resolve to contribute towards addressing the immediate and longer-term humanitarian needs of Internally Displaced Persons in the Lake Chad Basin countries of Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon with a view to enhancing their self-reliance as well as the resilience of host communities,

**Expressing deep concern** over the regional dimension of the humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin area, and appreciation to Governments and host communities in the region for their significant efforts to provide temporary shelter and protection to majority of the displaced persons

**Also expressing concern** about the persistent need for the increased provision of immediate humanitarian and long-term development assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in the affected region

**Underscoring** the imperative of addressing the root causes of internal displacement and the responsibilities of the international community to assist States in addressing the needs of Internally Displaced Persons, including through the facilitation of durable solutions;

1. **Commends** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat and the representatives of IDB Group towards alleviating the challenges of internal displacement in the Lake Chad Basin;
2. **Expresses deep appreciation** to Members of the OIC that have provided protection and assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, in the Lake Chad Basin area and encourages more support from broader range of donors in order to adequately address the humanitarian challenges;
3. **Also expresses appreciation** to Member States of the Lake Chad Basin, especially Niger Republic, Republic of Chad, Benin and Cameroon, for their cooperation which led to degrading of the capability of the Boko Haram terrorist group;

4. **Pledges**, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to increase assistance to victims of Boko Haram activities in the Lake Chad Basin area and to ensure that no one is left behind as OIC work towards assisting its Member States to achieve sustainable development;
5. **Encourages** enhanced cooperation and assistance to Governments in the Lake Chad Basin area and in this regard, invites OIC Member States and Secretariat to continue assisting countries in the Lake Chad Basin area, in accordance with the principles of burden-sharing and shared responsibility, and in the spirit of Islamic solidarity and in accordance with OIC Ten Years Plan of Action 2016-2025;
6. **Calls** for increased support to Government of Lake Chad Basin countries from the Secretariat and Organs through the implementation of the Islamic Solidarity Funds for Development's Sustainable Villagers Programme (SVP), Vocational Literacy Programme (VOLIP) and Micro-finance Support Programme (MFSP) in the reconstructed communities in Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon;
7. **Further calls** on OIC Member States, that have not assisted victims of enforced displacement in the Lake Chad Basin area, to urgently render humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering and hardship in the area;
8. **Requests** the OIC Secretariat to continue with its efforts on the humanitarian front, and to establish an effective coordination mechanism for humanitarian assistance to Lake Chad Basin area;
9. **Encourages** OIC to strengthen the nexus between its humanitarian assistance and development cooperation with countries in the Lake Chad Basin area as a new approach to addressing the immediate humanitarian needs, reducing vulnerability, and improving self-reliance and resilience of the victims of forced displacement in the area;
10. **Calls** on OIC General Secretariat and Organs to also commit substantially in key life-saving sectors including food, water, sanitation, health, shelter and quality education, recognizing that education provides fundamental protection to displaced persons and lay solid foundation for durable solution in rebuilding war-torn societies;
11. **Further calls** on OIC Member States to support measures adopted by the OIC General Secretariat and Organs for ensuring adequate, sustainable and predictable financing for OIC respond to the immediate humanitarian and developmental needs of displaced persons and communities in the Lake Chad Basin area;

12. **Calls** for re-invigorated International efforts to assist in tackling terrorist activities in the Lake Chad Basin area;
13. **Urges** Government authorities in the Lake Chad Basin area to ensure that the reconciliation measures incorporate the specific needs and conditions favourable for the safe and dignified return of displaced persons and promotes a sustainable and inclusive reintegration of displaced persons;
14. **Requests** the Secretary General of OIC to provide an update on assistance by OIC for the Internally Displaced Persons in North East Nigeria in particular and the Lake Chad Basin area in general, during the 45th Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting;
15. **Further calls upon** the General Secretariat to follow up on the implementation of the resolution.

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

***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 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

-----

**RESOLUTION No. 4/44-E**  
**ON**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE COMCEC**

*The Forty Fourth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,*

**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** to the Final Communique of the 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 14-15 April 2016,

**Further recalling** the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

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

**Taking note** of the resolutions of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 21-24 November 2016,

**Commending** the Government of Turkey for its continued support for COMCEC activities,

**Express its appreciation** to the Government of Turkey, as the host country of the COMCEC, 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,

**Also commending** COMCEC for its efforts for enhancing 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 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC No. OIC/COMCEC/32-16/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 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

-----

**RESOLUTION No. 5/44-E**  
**ON**  
**THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RELEVANT OIC INSTITUTIONS**  
**WORKING IN THE ECONOMIC DOMAIN**

*The Forty Fourth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,*

**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 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

**Recalling** the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Second Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 4-5 December 2016,

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

**Urging** Member States, which have not done so thus far, for the on-time and regular payment of their annual mandatory contributions to the budgets of the OIC Subsidiary Organs, and settlement of their outstanding arrears, if any, at the earliest,

**Having considered** the Report of the Secretary General,

**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),

**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 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 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors of SESRIC, held in Ankara, Turkey on 10 April 2017,

**Having taken note** of the Report of the Secretary General as well as the report of the Joint General Assembly of the Subsidiary Organs,

1. **Calls upon** the Member States to endeavour to implement the recommendations and project proposals contained in the reports and studies of SESRIC submitted to the relevant OIC Ministerial Conferences and meetings;
2. **Invites** SESRIC to continue to conduct 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 challenging the efforts of the Members States towards achieving the SDGs, particularly those which are also stipulated in the newly adopted OIC-Agenda 2025;
4. **Calls upon** the Member States to participate in, and support, the activities of SESRIC through designating their National Focal Points (NFPs) for the OIC-VET Programme and activating the role of these NFPs in the process of the implementation of the Programme;
5. **Urges** SESRIC and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group to enhance and increase their cooperation to facilitate the implementation of a wide range of training activities within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme;
6. **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 annual Sessions of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom).

**B. ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)**

**Recalling** the Resolution N° 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 outcome of the Second Meeting of the ACMOI Trade and Investment Sub Committee, which was held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco on 6 March 2017;

**Noting with satisfaction** the organization by ICDT of specialized exhibitions on Health, Halal Industry including African Business Halal, Agribusiness Industries, Sports and Leisure Industries, Light Industry and Handicraft, Tourism, Building and Real Estate and Higher Education;

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

**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 volume.

**Taking into account** the outcomes of the 34th Meeting of ICDT's Board of Directors, which was held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 7-8 March 2017;

**Welcoming** the offer of the State of Kuwait to hold the of the Meeting of the Global Network of Trade Promotion Organs (TPOs) of the OIC Member States and the Forum of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) of the OIC Member States on the sidelines of the Exceptional Edition of the OIC Trade Fair ;

**Taking note** of the outcomes of Workshops on "the Mechanisms for Settlement of Trade and Investment Disputes among the OIC Member States", held in Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco on 20-21 February 2017, and "Impact of Brexit on the Economies of the OIC Member States, held in Dubai, UAE on 18 April 2017;

**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** the 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, Agribusiness, Green Economy, Health, Higher Education Services, Maritime Economy, Social and Solidarity Economy, Cotton and textiles, Furniture, Interior Decoration and Building. Also, requests ICDT to prepare regularly progress reports and to submit them to the relevant OIC fora;
3. **Also requests** ICDT to carry on organizing the 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 outcomes of the survey and the guidelines for setting up Single Windows in the OIC Countries and to identify best practices to share;
5. **Urges** subsidiary organs and funding institutions to support technically and financially the activities related to the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa, 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 Trade Bridge and the Single Window and Trade facilitation Programme for Africa;
7. **Endorses** the ICDT draft work programme for the year 2018, which was adopted by the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ICDT's Board of Directors held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 7-8 March 2017.

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

**Commending** 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,

**Bearing in mind** the programmes of ICCIA in the areas of Halal, Innovation and Excellence Award (ITQAN), SMEs Development, Entrepreneurship Development,

Poverty Alleviation, Microfinance and Development of Women and Youth-led-Enterprises,

**Taking note** of the outcomes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Forum of Businesswomen in Islamic Countries held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 25 May 2016,

**Also taking note** of the efforts by ICCIA in the area of proposing modalities for the creation of a permanent body for the settlement of disputes arising under the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investment among the OIC Member States,

**Noting with appreciation** the cooperation of ICCIA with OIC Institutions and the UN Specialized agencies, namely UNIDO, UNDP and UN Office for South-South Cooperation,

**Having noted** the activity report submitted by the ICCIA,

1. **Calls upon** all interested parties to collaborate with the ICCIA in the areas of Halal, Innovation and Excellence Award (ITQAN), SMEs Development, Arbitration, Entrepreneurship Development, Poverty Alleviation, Microfinance and Development of Women and Youth-led-Enterprises;
2. **Also calls upon** the relevant stakeholders to undertake efforts for the realization of the proposed recommendations of the forums of Businesswomen in Islamic Countries, especially those related to facilitating easy access to finance and promoting investment opportunities for Businesswomen;
3. **Invites** ICCIA to consider to cooperate with SMIIC to determine due role and activities in conformity with established international and national rules and practices;
4. **Welcomes** the steps undertaken by the ICCIA and the Union of Turkish Chambers (TOBB), Konya Chamber of Commerce and Konya Commodity Exchange to formulize the measures needed to introduce the best practices adopted by Konya to other member chambers for the exchange of commodities and development of industrial zones to achieve commercial and industrial growth;
5. **Takes note** of the steps in setting up the OIC Arbitration Center, as per the COMCEC's resolution, which is proposed to be hosted by the Republic of Turkey and TOBB as an organ affiliated to the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture;



6. **Invites** the OIC Member States to encourage their private sector establishments and other stakeholders to actively participate in the ICCIA organized events during the year, particularly: the 17<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting of the OIC Countries; 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Chamber; Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries, Istanbul, Turkey; Sector-wise Trade Exchange Forum among Islamic Countries; and Innovation and Excellence Award (ITQAN);
7. **Further invites** OIC Member States to encourage their private sector establishments and other stakeholders to actively participate in the Specialized Workshop on (Food Security/Entrepreneurship Development & IT/Development of SMEs); Forum/Workshop for Private Sector Investors in the area of Development of Islamic Tourism; Conference on Muslim Business-Owners; and Chambers of Commerce Forum, among others.

#### **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, accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation, trade promotion and capacity building.

**Welcoming** the membership of Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Djibouti, and Republic of Iraq and Kingdom of Thailand as observer to SMIIC, which has increased the number of SMIIC Member States to 33 along with 3 Observers.

**Also welcoming** the establishment of SMIIC Information System (IS), which is designed to provide an electronic collaborative environment for the technical work of SMIIC's committees in accordance with SMIIC Directives and a database for general activities of the Institute.

**Further welcoming** the new SMIIC website covering all required information in a more sophisticated design which is integrated with SMIIC Information System (IS) and allows the online sale of OIC/SMIIC standards worldwide.

**Taking note** the establishment of five new Technical Committees in SMIIC on Halal Supply Chain (proposed by Malaysia), Halal Management System, Dangerous Goods Transportation Requirements on Transportation, Jewelry and Petroleum and Petroleum Products (proposed by Turkey).

**Welcoming** the establishment of SMIIC Committee on Standards for Conformity Assessment (SMIIC/CCA) for preparation of guides/standards on criteria for bodies involved in testing, calibration, certification, inspection, accreditation, their operation and

assessment, other related standards and especially halal conformity assessment and accreditation guidelines or standards.

**Noting with satisfaction** the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between SMIIC and International Trade Center (ITC) to provide a framework for cooperation to improve the quality and availability of information on OIC/SMIIC Halal standards, MoU between SMIIC and African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) to provide a framework for cooperation in standardization and its related fields and MoU between SMIIC and Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) to enhance the current level of cooperation between two institutions.

**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.

**Expressing** its appreciation to SMIIC for supporting the organization of the World Halal Summit (WHS) Istanbul on 15-17 December 2016 under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of 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.

**Welcoming** the organization of the First Thermometry Training given on the 09-13 May 2016 and the Advanced Thermometry Training on 05-09 September 2016 by Institute of Metrology of Bosnia and Herzegovina (IMBIH) in Sarajevo.

**Taking note** of the Technical Committee meetings and SMIIC IS Training held on 27-31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

**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 and to actively participate in its Technical Committees (TCs) and other technical activities of SMIIC organs such as metrology and accreditation;
2. **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;
3. **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;

4. **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);
5. **Calls upon** the Member States to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal Expo and Istanbul 2017 World Halal Summit to be held under the auspices of the Presidency of The Republic of Turkey on 23-25 November 2017, Istanbul which is organized in coordination with SMIIC General Secretariat and ICDT;
6. **Invites** all interested parties to consider to cooperate on halal standard and related issues with the SMIIC as the technically competent and authorized platform for these issues;
7. **Further calls upon** the International Islamic Fiqh Academy to support SMIIC and provide any necessary fatwa and advice particularly regarding halal issues;
8. **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 programs.
9. **Invites** IDB group to support SMIIC with training and programs in the fields of standards, metrology, accreditation and improvement in quality infrastructure.

**E. ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (OISA)**

**Recalling** the Resolution No. 4/3-E (IS) adopted by the Third Islamic Summit Conference held in Mecca Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 25-28 January 1981, with regard to the creation of the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA),

**Taking note** of the outcome of the 38<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee and 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association held in Dubai, United Arab of Emirates on 23 October 2016,

**Acknowledging** the role of maritime training institutions in providing the maritime transport market with highly trained and qualified personnel in compliance with the international standards in order to ensure the success of the maritime transport development plans in OIC Member States,

**Conscious** of the need to increase marine academies and training centers to train citizens of OIC countries in order to enable them serve on vessels owned by shipping companies of OIC Member States and other international shipping companies,

**Emphasizing** the need to increase financing infrastructure projects in the maritime industry, including identifying different methods of financing for the building and purchasing of ships to strengthen the maritime commercial fleet in OIC Member States,

1. **Urges** investors and financing institutions to support the development of marine transport, including maritime commercial fleet in OIC Member States;
2. **Requests** OIC Member States to encourage their shipping companies to register their tonnage with the Islamic P&I Club (IPIC) and benefit from its services;
3. **Also requests** OISA to reactivate its Bakkah Shipping Company in order to promote shipping transportation and starting permanent shipping line between OIC Member States;
4. **Urges** OIC Member States to encourage their shipping companies to utilize Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY), Turkish Shipbuilders' Association (GISBIR) and other shipyard companies in OIC Member States for building, repairing and maintenance of their vessels;
5. **Requests** OIC Member States to encourage their shipping companies to register their under construction vessels and new buildings with Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF) in order to utilize their best classification services.

**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 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and **calls upon** the General Secretariat to invite secretariats of the Standing Committees to Annual Coordination Meetings of OIC Institutions (ACMOI).

-----

Original: English

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

**(İstanbul, 21-24 November 2016)**

The Thirty-Second Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 21-24 November 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Summit;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

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

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

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

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

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

- 1- **Welcomes** the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy; **commends** the Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation and **requests** the Member States and OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.
- 2- **Welcomes** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC and **also welcomes** the research studies and sectoral outlooks conducted and prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.
- 3- **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-March and September-November 2016.
- 4- **Invites** all the Member Countries to exert efforts, to the extent possible, to implement the policy recommendations and **urges** relevant OIC Institutions to support the Member States in this regard.
- 5- **Welcomes** the finalization of the fourteen projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2015 and the progress achieved in the implementation of the nine new projects under the third project call in 2016, and **also welcomes** the fourth project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2016.
- 6- **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.
- 7- **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.
- 8- **Noting with appreciation** that the number of Member Countries having registered to at least one working group has reached 50, **requests** the Member States which have not done so, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups.
- 9- **Welcomes** the holding of the Fourth Annual Coordination Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office on 1-2 June 2016 in Ankara, Turkey.
- 10- **Calls on** the COMCEC National Focal Points and working group focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.

11- **Calls upon** the Member States concerned to respond to the “Evaluation Forms” circulated each year by the COMCEC Coordination Office with a view to following-up the implementation of the Policy Recommendations of the COMCEC Working Groups.

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

13- **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.

14- **Adopts** the recommendations of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held on 17-18 May 2016 in Ankara, Turkey.

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

15- **Welcomes** the adoption of OIC-2025: Programme of Action by the 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, which sets ambitious targets in various fields for the Member States of the OIC to achieve in the next ten years.

16- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Sessions of COMCEC, **underlines** the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action by the COMCEC and **requests** the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Meetings.

17- **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat, in consultation with the relevant OIC organs including COMCEC to propose an implementation plan to the Member Countries for their consideration.

18- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, **also 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)**

19- **Takes note** of the 2016 edition of SESRIC’s annual economic report titled “Transforming the Potentials into Impact”. In line with the findings of the report:

- **Calls upon** the Member States to improve accessibility, relevance and quality of education and training programmes in order to equip younger generations with the right mix of skills and competencies in line with the requirements of the labour market and facilitate their participation in the economy by developing young entrepreneurship programmes.
- **Taking into consideration** the opportunities offered by great market potential of the OIC region, **invites** Member States to take effective steps to reduce barriers to intra-OIC trade and investment that hinder the movement of goods, services, people and capital among the Member States.
- Given their rich natural resources and renewable energy potentials, **calls upon** the Member States to diversify their energy sources with a view to improving overall energy security.

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

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

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

22- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Strengthening the Compliance of OIC Member Countries to International Standards”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Developing/Strengthening a National Quality Infrastructure,
- Supporting the Member States’ Efforts for their Active Participation in the work of International Standardization Bodies,
- Strengthening SMIIC for the Adoption of Harmonized Standards for the Development of Quality Infrastructure in the OIC for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade.

*(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex .....)*

23- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Eighth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving the Border Agency Cooperation among the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Promoting the adoption of international standards in customs and other relevant cross border trade and logistics matters as well as accession to the relevant international conventions for harmonizing and simplifying rules and procedures related to the cross border trade and logistics operations,



- Promoting mutual recognition arrangements/agreements for border controls and trusted traders,
- Enhancing information exchange among the border agencies of the Member Countries through enhancing connectivity of information and communication technology systems, providing regular knowledge exchange platforms and participating in relevant international networks,
- Improving the infrastructure of land border crossing points and transport connectivity through the joint efforts of the neighboring countries e.g. through establishing joint technical/working committees, which include relevant stakeholders to identify the factors which cause bottlenecks.

*(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex .....)*

24- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend the Ninth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “*Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade*” and the Tenth Meeting to be organized on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 with the theme of “*Special Economic Zones in the OIC Member States: Learning from Experiences*” and also **calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

25- **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in the trade activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIIC in 2017 and also **requests** these institutions to send invitations and documents to the Member States sufficiently in advance of their meetings so as to ensure the widest possible participation.

26- **Commends** the efforts of the Gambia in partnership with Turkey and Senegal for the successful implementation of the project titled “Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening of the Gambia Standards Bureau for the Adoption and Implementation of OIC/SMIIIC Halal Standards and related Conformity Assessment” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

27- **Also commends** efforts of Qatar in partnership with five other member countries for the successful implementation of the project titled “Trade Agreements and Economic Diversification in Qatar, Opportunities and Challenges for Entrepreneurs” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

28- **Recognizing** the COMCEC’s efforts in its Working Group Meetings in the issue of travel facilitation, **invites** the COMCEC Coordination Office to dwell on facilitation of the movement of business-people in the forthcoming Working Group Meetings.

29- **Takes note** of the joint report of IDB and ITC entitled “Halal goes Global”.

*i) TPS-OIC*

30- **Calls upon** the Member States which have not yet signed or ratified TPS-OIC Agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and Rules of Origin, to do so at their earliest convenience and **expresses** its intention to work with the regional trading blocs for the completion of the necessary requirements for the implementation of the System.

31- **Welcomes** the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, and Islamic Republic of Iran.

32- **Takes note with appreciation** that the Kingdom of Morocco would convey its updated concession list to the TNC Secretariat in the forthcoming months.

33- **Appreciating** the commitment of Indonesia to join the TPS-OIC System, **welcomes** the offer of Indonesia to host “Training Seminar for the benefit of the Member States of the Asian Countries on the TPS-OIC” in Jakarta in 2017.

34- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC, **invites** the GCC Secretariat, on behalf of its six member states, to convey their updated concession lists at their earliest convenience to the TNC Secretariat with a view to early utilizing market access opportunities to be brought by the TPS-OIC.

35- **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.

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

- Training Seminar on “TPS-OIC and its Protocols for the benefit of the African Countries”, organized on 28-30 March 2016 in Casablanca, Morocco;
- Training Seminar on “TPS-OIC and its Protocols for the benefit of the State of Palestine and Jordan” held in Amman, Jordan on 4-5 April 2016.

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

*ii) Islamic Trade Fairs*

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

- The State of the United Arab Emirates for hosting concomitantly the “2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism & Travel Exhibition” and the “4<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal Expo” in Sharjah on 8-10 December 2015,
- The Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the “3<sup>rd</sup> OIC Health Expo” in Casablanca on 24-26 March 2016,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the “9<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” in Jeddah on 9-12 May 2016 and 15<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair in Riyadh on 22-26 May 2016,
- The Republic of Senegal for hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> “African Halal Business Forum” in Dakar on 3-5 March 2016 and the “2<sup>nd</sup> Higher Education Expo” in Dakar on 9-12 May 2016.

39- **Welcomes** the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2017/2019 and **requests** the Member States to encourage active participation of their private sector and relevant institutions in these events:

- The Republic of Iraq to host the 16<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair of the Islamic Countries in Baghdad on 2-7 April 2017,
- The Arab Republic of Egypt to host the “3<sup>rd</sup> Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States” in Cairo on 18-21 October 2017,
- Republic of Senegal to host “1<sup>st</sup> OIC Green Economy Expo” on 26-29 October 2017 and “1<sup>st</sup> OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo”, in 2017 in Dakar,
- The Republic of Turkey to host the “5<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 23-26 November 2017 in cooperation with SMIIC,
- Republic of Guinea to host the 17<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair in 2019,
- The State of Kuwait to host a “Special OIC Trade Fair” in Kuwait-City 6-10 February 2018,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the “10<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” in Jeddah on 10-13 April 2017,
- The Republic of Azerbaijan to host the “1<sup>st</sup> Exhibition of Sport Equipment and Leisure of the OIC Member States” in Baku on 13-15 May 2017 in collaboration with Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation,
- The Republic of Côte d’Ivoire to host the “2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Building and Real Estate Exhibition” in 2017 and “4<sup>th</sup> Health Expo” in 2018 in Abidjan.

40- **Endorses** amendments submitted by ICDT in the Internal Regulations of the OIC Islamic Trade Fair specifically by adding the following paragraph in the article no.2: “any applicant for hosting the Islamic Trade Fair or a Specialized Exhibition shall meet the

following conditions:

- The selected venue shall have a fairground with international standards,
- The co-organizing company shall have a robust experience in organizing international exhibitions,
- The company shall have a sound financial basis,
- The selected city shall be linked with regular flights,
- The applications for hosting Islamic Trade Fair and Specialized Exhibitions are examined by a “selecting committee chaired by ICDT”.

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

42- **Also reiterates** its request to the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs.

*iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance*

43- **Notes with satisfaction** the organization of “Ministerial Consultative Meeting of OIC Trade Ministers” held on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 on the sidelines of the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

44- **Expresses** its thanks and appreciation to the IDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO- related training courses and seminars for the benefit of the Member States.

45- **Calls on** IDB, SESRIC and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and to carry on with their efforts in raising the awareness of Member States on the importance of the WTO trade negotiations and their impact on economies and **requests** them to 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.

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

47- **Welcomes** the willingness of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to continue to share its WTO-accession experiences with the non-WTO Members of the OIC.

48- **Expresses** its appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting, ICDT and the IDB Group for organizing the Seminars on “Administration of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and Prospects of the Regional Trade Integration in the OIC Member States” in Casablanca on 21-23 December 2015 and “The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Prospects of Activating The OIC Single Window” for the benefit of the member states of the African Countries in Casablanca on 30 May-01 June 2016.

49- **Also expresses** its appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting ICDT

and Agadir Technical Unit for organizing a workshop on “Trade in Services among the Regional Economic Groupings: What lessons for the QUAD Countries” in Cairo on 21-23 December 2015.

*iv) Trade Financing Activities*

50- **Appreciates** trade finance and trade 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.

51- **Commends** the efforts of ITFC in financing SMEs and Least Developed Member Countries 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.

52- **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.

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

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

55- **Welcomes** the official launch of the Special Program for Central Asia (SPCA), with its trade financing component, during the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the IDB Group Board of Governors and **takes note of** the preparatory efforts being undertaken by IDB Group (ITFC) for its effective implementation.

56- **Takes note** of the efforts of the ITFC in implementing integrated Trade Programmes for commodity development through blending its trade finance facilities with its trade related technical assistance interventions and **requests** ITFC to develop similar programs for other strategic commodities.

57- **Commends** ITFC’s efforts for the diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments, supporting training programs on Islamic finance and promoting Islamic Finance solutions at international foras and **welcomes** the announcement of organizing a side event on Islamic Trade Finance during the next WTO Public Forum.

*v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIIC*

58- **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 Member States.

59- **Invites** the Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Committees.

60- **Welcomes** the increasing visibility of the SMIIC and **expresses** its appreciation to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence.

61- **Takes note with appreciation** of the organization of SMIIC Halal Conference on 14-15 December 2015 in Malaysia jointly by the SMIIC General Secretariat and Department of Standards Malaysia.

62- **Invites** the Member States to participate in the World Halal Summit to be held on the sidelines of the 10<sup>th</sup> SMIIC General Assembly Meeting on 15-17 December 2016 in Istanbul.

63- **Takes note** of the following capacity building activities organized by SMIIC:

- Training programs on Scientific Metrology on 22-26 February 2016 in Turkey in coordination with SMIIC Metrology Committee Chair, SMIIC General Secretariat and SESRIC,
- SMIIC Information System Training on 19-21 April 2016 in Turkey.

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

64- **Taking note** of the report of the ICCIA submitted to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up the Committee and the explanation given by the ICCIA during the Session regarding the relevant resolution of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC and recommendation of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, **encourages** the ICCIA to strive to continue to serve the emerging needs of the private sector in the member countries and report the progress to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee and 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

65- **Also encourages** their Chambers of Commerce to be actively involved in the ICCIA's activities.

66- **Welcomes** the holding of the 9<sup>th</sup> Businesswomen Forum for Islamic Countries, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fair on 25 May 2016.

67- **Commends** the Republic of Turkey for the successful organization of the Second Workshop on “Enhancing Cooperation among the Trade Registry Agencies of the OIC Member States” on 16-17 November 2016, in Ankara.

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

- The 17<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting of the OIC Countries to be held in 2017,
- 10<sup>th</sup> Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries to be held in Sudan / Egypt in 2017,
- Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries to be held in Lahore, Pakistan on 29<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016,
- Training Program on Entrepreneurship Development through IT for OIC Countries to be held in 2017,
- Trade Exchange Forum/Exhibition (Sector-wise) to be held in 2017.

69- **Takes note** of the strategy for increasing trade in services in the Member Countries prepared by the ICCIA in collaboration with IDB Group and ICDT.

70- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting of the OIC and the relevant recommendation of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, **takes note** of the briefing by ICCIA and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) on the setting up of the OIC Arbitration Center affiliated with ICCIA in Istanbul and **requests** them to submit a progress report on this issue to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

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

71- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group held on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey with the theme of “Enhancing Road Maintenance in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a National Road Maintenance Strategy Based on Evidence and Data,
- Ensuring the Allocation of Adequate and Sustainable Funding for Road Maintenance and Increasing Effective Utilization of Available Road Funds through a Sound Legal Framework and Institutional Structure,
- Making Use of Performance-Based Contracts in Road Maintenance,
- Establishing a Road Database Management System.

*(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex .....)*

72- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Eighth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Improving Road Safety in the OIC Member States", **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Raising Awareness of Road Safety in the Member States,
- Adhering to the Major UN Road Safety Agreements and Conventions and Adapting the Safe Systems Approach to the National Road Safety Management System,
- Establishing a Reliable and Sustainable Road Safety and Crash Data System,
- Developing a National Road Safety Strategy and Assigning a National Lead Agency/Institution Responsible for Road Safety Management.

*(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex .....)*

73- **Calls upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, to actively participate in the Ninth Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with the theme of "Increasing Broadband Internet Penetration in OIC Member Countries", as well as its Tenth Meeting to be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with the theme of "Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries" and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group.

74- **Commends** the efforts of Turkey for the successful implementation in partnership with six member countries of the project titled "Measuring and Benchmarking of Passenger Movement Performance Index among the OIC countries" under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

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

76- **Commending** the efforts of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group for enhancing multimodal transport in the OIC Region including railway connections, **invites** the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to revisit railway connectivity, including the major problems faced, in its future meetings.

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

77- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of "Muslim Friendly



Tourism (MFT): Understanding the Demand and Supply Sides in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing basic guidelines for improving the basic MFT related services,
- Increasing awareness of MFT market among the travel industry stakeholders through standardizing terminology used in MFT, introducing market awareness and customer service training programmes and utilizing social media for promotion and marketing,
- Developing healthcare services and facilities for the MFT market through identifying the different strengths of the OIC Region, building specialization hubs, developing alternative/traditional treatments and wellness programs,
- Launching an alliance among the Muslim-friendly travel agents/ tour operators targeting MFT market.

*(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex .....)*

78- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism: Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a national Muslim Friendly Tourism strategy that links to the country’s overall tourism goals through focusing on building stakeholder awareness, establishing a dedicated MFT body/committee and developing a national MFT products/services and marketing development strategy,
- Conducting government-led MFT-focused destination marketing through developing an MFT branding and positioning for the benefit of local service providers and measuring the potential of a destination for MFT by funding/organizing short-term campaigns.
- Supporting SMEs through developing training and mentorship programmes,
- Developing bilateral tourism cooperation within the OIC through technical knowledge exchange and joint promotion efforts for MFT destinations.

*(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex .....)*

79- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Ankara with theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Regulations for Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries” and its 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be held on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 with the theme of “Risk and Crisis Management and Recovery from Crisis in Tourism Sector in the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

80- **Commends** the Gambia for the successful implementation in partnership with Senegal and Guinea Bissau of the project titled “Strengthening Community Resilience through Eco tourism” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

81- **Welcomes** the holding of the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) on 21-23 December 2015 in Niamey, Republic of Niger, and **commends** the selection of al-Madinah al-Munawwarah as the OIC City of Tourism, 2017, and Tabriz as the OIC City of Tourism, 2018 by the Conference.

82- **Also welcomes** the offer of People’s Republic of Bangladesh to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in November 2017 and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

83- **Takes note** of the report of the Fourth Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held on 14-15 January 2016 in İstanbul with the theme of “Promoting Muslim-friendly Tourism Products and Services in the OIC Member Countries.”

84- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum in the first quarter of 2017 and **requests** the Member States to encourage their private sector representatives in tourism sector to actively participate in this event.

85- **Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Tehran International Tourism Exhibition on 6-9 February, 2017 and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

86- **Welcomes** the organization of the Workshop on “the Future of Tourism Development in Konya” by SESRIC in cooperation with ICDT on 15-16 November 2016, in Konya, the Republic of Turkey.

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

87- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Reducing On-Farm Food Losses in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Identifying the knowledge and information gaps regarding the levels and specific causes of on-farm food losses for key crops and food products with a view to providing solutions for each OIC Member Country,

- Improving/developing agricultural extension, training and outreach activities for reducing on-farm food losses,
- Developing specific programs/projects to address on-farm losses in agricultural value chains in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions.

*(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex .....)*

**88- Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group held on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with the theme of “Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Setting up national post-harvest losses reduction coordination committees with a view to identifying, prioritizing and sharing post-harvest losses data and practices across a range of strategic commodities and raising awareness on post-harvest losses,
- Mobilizing agricultural finance providers to allocate more financial resources with a view to addressing agricultural infrastructure investment needs in post-harvest losses,
- Improving and developing agricultural extension, training and outreach activities for reducing post-harvest losses.

*(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex .....)*

**89- Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 in Ankara with theme of “Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries” and its 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be held on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Creation and Development of Market Institutions” and **also calls upon** the Member States, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.

**90- Commends** the efforts of Chad, Indonesia, Suriname and Turkey for the successful implementation of the following projects respectively under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- “Project for supporting the Agricultural training centers in Chad”; Chad in partnership with Turkey and Burkina Faso,
- “The project on improving the income of small and medium scale farmers in OIC Member States through Integrated Farming System” by Indonesia in partnership with the Gambia, Egypt and Sudan,
- “The project on the gaps for greenhouse vegetable Crops; Principles for tropical climate areas” by Suriname in partnership with Guyana and Turkey,
- “The project on the establishment of database, network connection and web

pages of smallholders/family farmer's agricultural cooperatives between OIC member states" by Turkey in partnership with 19 member countries.

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

92- **Takes note with appreciation** of the organization of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development and the Inaugural General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) held on 26–28 April 2016 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan.

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

93- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “*Accessibility of Vulnerable Groups to Social Protection Programmes in the OIC Member Countries*”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Promoting formalization in the labor market through creating a regulatory environment for facilitating the transition of informal businesses to formal sector, and increasing the productivity of informally employed and long-term unemployed people via training and skill-development programs, credit and business development services,
- Promoting free and universal health care coverage for vulnerable groups,
- Developing specific social safety net programs to improve the access of vulnerable children to health and education services for preventing intergenerational transmission of poverty,
- Designing specific social safety net programs to offer a minimum regular income to people who cannot work (disabled, poor female-headed households, elderly without a pension) as well as developing social safety net programs (including activation programs) for people who can work.

*(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex .....)*

94- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 in Ankara, with the theme of “*Forced Migration in the OIC Member Countries: The Policy Framework Adopted by Host Countries*”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a sound policy framework at the national level coherent with legislations and mechanisms in the host countries and strengthening their

institutional and human capacity in order to manage diverse set of forced migration flows and address the needs of migrants,

- Facilitating access to safe and affordable housing with a view to decreasing housing shortages and the economic burden on both migrants and host communities and allowing them to actively participate in daily life in the host country,
- Increasing the forced migrants' access to labour market through providing work permits and developing programs for upgrading their skills with a view to enhancing self-sustainability,
- Facilitating forced migrants' access to health and education services through eliminating the practical barriers including linguistic disparities and service fees,
- Collecting reliable data on forced migrant population with a view to increasing the efficiency of policy making and monitoring as well as evaluation processes,
- Mobilising the international and OIC support and resources for alleviating poverty among the forced migrants.

95- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in the Ninth Meeting of the Working Group to be held on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “*Malnutrition in OIC Countries: A Trap for Poverty*”, as well as its 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with the theme of “*Education of Disadvantaged Children in OIC: the Key to Escape from Poverty*” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

96- **Commends** the efforts of Cameroon, Iran, Suriname and SESRIC for the successful implementation of the following projects respectively under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- “The project on building productivity capacities of agriculture small scale producers of the coffee and cocoa within some Central African and West African States through the improvement of phytosanitary practices” by Cameroon in partnership with Nigeria and Benin,
- “The project on the Role of Community-Based Rehabilitation in Poverty Reduction” by Iran in partnership with Malaysia and Indonesia,
- “Design and implementation of the Management Information System for SSNs within the Ministry” by Suriname in partnership with Turkey and Guyana,
- “Improving Statistical Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics” by SESRIC in partnership with 25 Member Countries.

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

97- **Reiterates** its requests to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments and those who have not yet pledged to the ISFD to do so in order to enable the Fund to undertake more developmental projects in the member

countries. The Session **also requests** the Member Countries to consider making additional commitments on a voluntary basis.

98- **Calls on** the Member Countries to implement the IDB Board of Governors resolution in donating Waqf land for the ISFD to invest and enhance its income resources for poverty alleviation.

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

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

*ii) OIC Cotton Plan of Action*

101- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC on OIC Cotton Programme, **welcomes** the IDB's allocation of the necessary funding to the capacity building project of SESRIC for 2017.

102- **Welcomes** the successful finalization of the Programme with the SESRIC's capacity building project and expresses its thanks and appreciation to all stakeholders, which contributed to the Programme.

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

*iii) OIC-VET Program*

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

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

*iv) Implementation of the SDGs*

106- **Recalling** the relevant recommendation of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee, **welcomes** the study titled "Contributions of the OIC Institutions

in Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” conducted by the IDB and COMCEC Coordination Office in cooperation with SESRIC, ICDT, ICCIA, SMIIC and **calls upon** the Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to utilize the findings of this Study.

107- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the activities, which are conducted on the implementation of the SDGs in the Member Countries and submit a report to the next COMCEC Session.

108- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMCEC on identifying the priority SDG areas for the Member States, **invites** the Member States to duly complete the “Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries” designed and circulated by the SESRIC and requests SESRIC to submit a report on the results of the survey to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Follow-up Committee Meeting and 33<sup>rd</sup> COMCEC Session.

109- **Entrusts** SESRIC to be the focal point, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat, at the OIC level for following up the SDGs indicator framework, currently being developed by the international statistical community and to report regularly the progress recorded in the finalization of the SDG indicator framework to the annual sessions of COMCEC.

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

110- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on 17-18 March, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member States”, **welcomes** its policy recommendations, as reference guidelines for the interested Member Countries for developing Islamic Finance Strategies.

*(The policy recommendations of the Meeting are integrated to the Policy Recommendations Document prepared specifically for the Exchange of Views Session of the 32nd COMCEC Ministerial Session which is Annexed ..)*

111- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Seventh Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ankara with the theme of “National and Global Islamic Financial Architecture: Problems and Possible Solutions for the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations, as reference guidelines for the interested Member Countries to develop Islamic Financial Architecture;

- Developing/ Supporting Legal Framework for Islamic Finance by Reviewing Islamic Financial Laws, Tax Regimes, Dispute Settlement Framework and Bankruptcy Law,

- Developing Necessary Regulatory and Supervisory Institutional Framework for the Islamic Financial Services Industries (IFSI) through Adopting Standards Developed by Islamic Financial Architecture Institutions and Improving the National Framework,
- Establishing a Sound Governance Framework by Introducing the Requirement of Shariah Governance at the Financial Institution Level in Islamic Financial Laws and in Regulations,
- Enhancing Consumer Protection and Financial Education through Ensuring Full Disclosure in Islamic Finance Contracts and Having Financial Education Programs to Increase Awareness and the Level of Understanding of Islamic Financial Transactions,
- Developing Liquidity Infrastructure for Islamic Financial Sector by Issuing Shariah Compliant Liquidity Instruments, Developing an Active Islamic Money Market and Ensuring Lender of the Last Resort to Offer Shariah Compliant Facilities.

*(The Policy recommendations document including the rationale for each recommendation, is attached as Annex .....*)

112- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in the Eighth Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Public Debt Management in the OIC Member Countries”, as well as its Ninth Meeting to be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with the theme of “Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

113- **Commends** the efforts of the Gambia for the successful implementation in partnership with Nigeria and Sierra Leone of the project titled “Capacity Building on Islamic Financial Instruments” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

114- **Also commends** the efforts of Malaysia for the successful implementation in partnership with Azerbaijan, Turkey and the UAE of the project titled “Islamic Capital Market Capacity Building Programmes” under the second project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

***i) OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum***

115- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Sessions of the COMCEC, **takes note of** the report of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum hosted by Borsa Istanbul on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and **welcomes** the Forum’s proposal to establish a highly adaptable web-based gold trading and clearing platform with the ultimate aim of a gold exchange/platform among the volunteering Member Countries. The Session also **requests** the Forum/Forum’s Secretariat to carry out necessary studies for the suggested platform/exchange.



116- **Also invites** the interested member states to actively participate in Forum's Task Force to support the suggested platform/exchange through accelerating the process of integration of exchanges and harmonization of regulatory frameworks.

117- **Welcomes** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum, to host the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum in 2017 in İstanbul and requests all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

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

*ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies*

119- Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Sessions of the COMCEC, **takes note of the** Report of the Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum hosted by the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in İstanbul and **takes note of** the Forum's proposal to establish COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform among the interested OIC Member States participating in the Forum. The Session **also requests** the Forum/ the Forum's Secretariat to conduct comprehensive studies to identify necessary stages towards establishing the suggested platform, with the support of the relevant national authorities and securities exchanges from volunteering Member States.

120- **Also invites the** interested member states to actively participate in studies to support the suggested platform by identifying their authorized bodies to expedite further technical work for establishing the platform.

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

122- **Welcomes** the offer of the Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the Sixth Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum in 2017 in İstanbul and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

*iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities*

123- **Welcomes** the offer of the Central Bank of Turkey to host the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States in the second half of 2017 and **urges** the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

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

**Exchange of Views on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” (Agenda Item: 12)**

125- **Welcomes** the policy recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group on “Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” organized on 17-18 March 2016 in Ankara, Turkey, as reference guidelines for the interested Member Countries to develop Islamic Finance Strategies.

*Ref: Policy Recommendations Document (Annex...)*

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

126- **Decides** on “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 33<sup>rd</sup> COMCEC Session.

**Date of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 13)**

127- **Decides** that the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 10-11 May, 2017 in Ankara, Turkey and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COMCEC will be held on 20-23 November, 2017 in İstanbul, Turkey.

**Any Other Business (Agenda Item: 14)**

*i) Renewal of the Bureau Members*

128- **Elects** State of Qatar, Malaysia and Republic of Gabon as Vice Chairmen of the Bureau of the COMCEC to represent the Arab, Asian and African Regions, respectively, and Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Rapporteur, to assume their posts as of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC; as a result of the election, the composition of the Follow-up Committee is as follows;

| <u>Country</u>               | <u>Status</u>                                     |
|------------------------------|---|
| Republic of Turkey           | : Chairman (Permanent)                            |
| State of Palestine           | : Vice-Chairman (Permanent)                       |
| Kingdom of Saudi Arabia      | : Vice-Chairman (Permanent)                       |
| State of Qatar               | : Vice-Chairman (Representing the Arab Region)    |
| Malaysia                     | : Vice-Chairman (Representing the Asian Region)   |
| Republic of Gabon            | : Vice-Chairman (Representing the African Region) |
| State of Kuwait              | : Member of the Previous Bureau                   |
| Republic of Indonesia        | : Member of the Previous Bureau                   |
| Republic of Niger            | : Member of the Previous Bureau                   |
| Islamic Republic of Pakistan | : Rapporteur                                      |

-----  
-----