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RESOLUTIONS

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ADOPTED TO THE

45TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (CFM)

***(SESSION OF ISLAMIC VALUES FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE,
SOLIDARITY AND DEVELOPMENT)***

**DHAKA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
5-6 MAY 2018**

No.	Title	Page
I	<p style="text-align: center;">Resolution No. 1/45-E: On Agriculture, Trade, Tourism and Transportation</p>	3
II	<p style="text-align: center;">Resolution No. 2/45-E: On Employment, Private Sector and Poverty Alleviation</p>	15
III	<p style="text-align: center;">Resolution No. 3/45-E: On Economic Assistance to OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in Disputed/Occupied Territories and Non-OIC Countries Within the OIC Mandate</p>	21
IV	<p style="text-align: center;">Resolution No. 4/45-E: On Implementation of Decisions of the COMCEC</p>	25
V	<p style="text-align: center;">Resolution No. 5/45-E: On Activities of the Relevant OIC Institutions Working in the Economic Domain</p>	27

RESOLUTION No.1/45-E
ON
AGRICULTURE, TRADE, TOURISM AND TRANSPORTATION

The Forty Fifth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development), held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 19-20 Shaban 1439H (5-6 May 2018),

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

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, and **emphasizing** the need for the General Secretariat to give due regard to the member states' views and observations during the implementation of the OIC-2025 and make the necessary revisions in the Implementation Plan of the OIC-2025,

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 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,

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

Reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 33rd Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20-23 November 2017,

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

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

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 33rd Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20-23 November 2017,

Taking note of the conclusion of the Headquarters Agreement between IOFS and the Government of Kazakhstan in May 2017, and ratification of the same by the Parliament of Kazakhstan in November 2017,

Also taking note of the ratification of the Statute of Islamic Organization for Food Security by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the State of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates,

Welcoming the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IOFS and Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) towards implementing joint projects,

Reiterating the role of 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, in collaboration with COMCEC and other relevant OIC institutions,

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,

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

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,

Also commending member states, which have submitted their inputs for the proposed OIC programme of action for development of strategic agricultural commodities,

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

1. **Welcomes** the entry into force of the Statute of IOFS on 19 February 2018 upon the recent ratification of the Statute by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the State of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, which completed the required number of 10 ratifications;
2. **Calls on** all member states, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Statute of IOFS at their earliest convenience;
3. **Expresses appreciation** to the Government of Kazakhstan for facilitating the early take-off of the Secretariat of IOFS within the process of consolidating the approved organs of the new OIC specialized institution, upon the provisional entry into force of the Statute of IOFS;
4. **Requests** member states, which have not done so, to submit their respective inputs for the proposed OIC programme of action for development of strategic agricultural commodities in a timely manner;
5. **Invites** IOFS to undertake appropriate measures for the timely and effective implementation of its 5-Year Plan of Action;
6. **Welcomes** the offer by the Government of the Republic of Turkey to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCF SAD) in the last quarter of 2019, and **calls on** all member states to actively participate in the said Conference;
7. **Invites** the Eighth MCF SAD to review the agriculture component of the OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (OIC-IDRIP) and submit appropriate recommendations for CFM consideration;
8. **Notes** that the initiative of Uzbekistan to develop the Concept of "personalized agriculture", that implying the choice of a specific genotype of crops, taking into account its response to specific environment, soil, water and biostimulants, will help improve the agricultural sector of OIC member states.

B. INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Reaffirming the Resolution No.1/44-E adopted by 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote D'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017, with regard to intra-OIC trade and investment,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, especially those adopted by the 33rd Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20- 23 November 2017,

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

Taking note of the fact that 26 OIC countries have already attained 25% intra-OIC trade penetration as contained in the OIC-2025: Programme of Action,

Emphasizing the need for reflection of national trade priorities in the Work Programme of ICDT in line with the Resolution No.1/43-E (A-8) adopted by the 43rd CFM,

Welcoming the signing and ratification of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC and the General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States of the OIC by Brunei Darussalam,

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\$ 4.8 billion in 2017, and the various business insurances by ICIEC amounting to US\$ 7 billion in 2017,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for convening the World Halal Summit (WHS) and the 5th OIC Halal Expo, in cooperation with ICDT and SMIIC, in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-25 November 2017,

Underlining the importance of developing and harmonizing halal certification standards among OIC member states in order to boost intra-OIC trade,

Taking note of the recommendations of the 3rd Forum of the Trade Promotion Organs (TPOs) of the OIC Member States, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco on 11-12 October 2017,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the Workshop on Facilitating Trade: Identifying Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) among the OIC Member States in Rabat, Morocco on 24-25 October 2017, which was supported under the COMCEC Project Funding,

Also expressing appreciation to the Government of State of Kuwait for hosting the Special OIC Trade Fair, held in Kuwait City, Kuwait on 6-10 February 2018,

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

1. **Renews its invitation** to all member states to submit their national inputs to the Annual Work Programmes of OIC Subsidiary Organs in order to enhance inclusiveness, dynamism and ownership of OIC programmes and projects;
2. **Calls upon** the member states, which have not yet signed or ratified Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC), PRETAS and Rules of Origin, to do so at their earlier convenience;
3. **Also calls on** the General Secretariat to undertake the necessary consultations with the member states with a view of validating the trade component of OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (OIC-IDRIP);
4. **Invites** all member states to harmonize the application of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) in order to have the same understanding of the scope of these NTMs and to standardize the application of the mechanisms that effect member states;
5. **Calls on** all member states to actively participate at the 6th OIC Halal Expo to be held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 29 November - 2 December 2018;
6. **Urges** ICDT, SESRIC and IDB Group to develop capacity building and experience-sharing programmes to be implemented through and effective networking among the national Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) in the OIC member states.

I. WORLD EXPO-2025

Recalling the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the commitment to the principles of Islamic solidarity and unity of the Member States,

Also recalling the established practices among Member States to support each other's candidates submitted to international organizations and **affirming** the essentiality of promoting and consolidating the unity and solidarity among the Member States in securing their common interests at the international arena,

Recognizing the importance of representation of OIC Member States in various international positions,

Commending the efforts made by the Republic of Azerbaijan in promoting Islamic values and identify at home and abroad by declaring the year of 2017 as a Year of Islamic Solidarity in Azerbaijan and organizing the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku,

Recognizing that the political authority, constantly developing economy and social stability in Azerbaijan strengthens the international reputation of the country and **commending** the Republic of Azerbaijan, as a member of the Islamic Ummah, for its vigorous and determined efforts in promoting of regional security and stability, economic cooperation and transit connectivity contributing to the stronger and prosperous Islamic Community,

Acknowledging that the success story of Azerbaijan in international arena plays positive role for the whole Islamic Ummah,

Congratulating the United Arab Emirates on the victorious nomination of its city Dubai for hosting World EXPO 2020, which is one of the biggest events on the global arena, and **reminding** that the solidarity and unity of the Islamic Ummah played a vital role for the United Arab Emirates in winning this nomination,

Bearing in mind the fact that Azerbaijan is the only Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that has submitted the candidacy of its capital, the city of Baku, for hosting the World Expo 2025,

Acknowledging that Azerbaijan with its economic and infrastructural capacities is ready to proudly take up a challenge of organizing the World EXPO-2025 as a continuation of its proven track record in delivering large-scale international events,

Stressing that the Baku World EXPO-2025 will be an opportunity for discovering a new EXPO destination and shall give a powerful push to the development of Azerbaijan and the region, including economy, trade, tourism and transit connectivity and **underlining** that Expo-2025 in Baku will be a perfect ground to continue to promote mutual understanding among nations,

Commending the active role that Azerbaijan plays in promoting inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue between the Islamic World and the West and in this regard, **upholding** that World EXPO-2025 in Baku would present another opportunity for furthering this dialogue,

Reminding that the Islamic countries played a vital role in Azerbaijan's election as a member of the UN Security Council 2012 and the Republic of Azerbaijan put forward and implemented a number of proposals serving and defending the interests of the Islamic world during its membership to the Council,

Recalling the Chair Summary of the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held on 22 September 2017, on the sidelines of 73rd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which welcomed the nomination by the Republic of Azerbaijan of its capital Baku for hosting the World Expo 2025 and expressed support for this nomination,

1. **Invites** OIC Member States to assist each other in the spirit of Islamic solidarity guided by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization;
2. **Welcomes** the nomination by the Republic of Azerbaijan of its capital Baku for hosting World EXPO-2025 and **pledges** to support this nomination.

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 6th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic on 29 June - 2 July 2008,

Recalling the Resolution on Tourism Development adopted by 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote D'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017, with regard to tourism development in OIC member states,

Also recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, especially those adopted by the 33rd Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20- 23 November 2017,

Commending the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh for hosting the 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Dhaka on 5-7 February 2018, and **taking note** of the outcome of the said conference, especially the adoption of the Resolution on Tourism Development in the OIC Member States; and the Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism,

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

Encouraging all member states to take advantage of their participation at the various commemorative ceremonies and activities in Tabriz as the OIC City of Tourism 2018 to promote intra-OIC tourism,

Welcoming the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the 3rd OIC Tourism Fair in Cairo in the second half of 2018,

Expressing satisfaction at the outcome of the **Sixth** OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 8 March 2018,

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,

Also commending the contributions of the various OIC Institutions in the development of Tourism Sector, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IRCICA, IDB Group, ISESCO, ICCIA, SMIIC and ICYF-DC,

1. **Welcomes** the attached Resolutions adopted by the 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-7 February 2018;
2. **Also welcomes** the award to Dhaka (Bangladesh) as the OIC City of Tourism 2019 and a similar award to Gabala (Azerbaijan) as the OIC City of Tourism 2020, and

undertakes to participate at the various commemorative ceremonies and activities aimed at promoting intra-OIC tourism in these awardee cities;

3. **Invites** the General Secretariat to liaise with the Government of Bangladesh on early arrangements for the commemoration of OIC City of Tourism 2019;
4. **Calls on** SMIIC to create the appropriate standards for the development of expanded Islamic tourist activity among the member states;
5. **Urges** all member states to actively participate in the 11th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) to be held in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2020.

D. TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

Recalling the Resolution No.5/11-E (IS) adopted by the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 13-14 March 2008, in which the Summit approved the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project,

Reaffirming the commitment to the implementation of 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,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, especially those adopted by the 33rd Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20- 23 November 2017,

Recognizing the crucial importance of efficient, reliable and safe development of land, maritime and air transport infrastructure and service that follows the principles of inclusive, sustainable and harmonized regional development in order to contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development goals of the OIC member states,

Also recognizing the need for long-term commitment and continuity in addressing critical issues in the transport sector to support sustainable economic growth, improve the living standards of peoples and further increase the competitiveness of economies of the OIC member states,

Conscious of the fact that transport networks among OIC member states remain poorly connected, and the need to strengthen cooperation efforts in the transport sector through formulation and execution of joint projects,

Highlighting the need for the implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project as a multimodal transport corridor,

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,

Also commending the efforts of the relevant institutions of the OIC, in particular the IDB, within their respective mandates, to support development of transport infrastructure in OIC member states,

1. **Welcomes** the offer by the Government of the Republic of Sudan to host the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers in 2018 and **calls on** all member states to actively participate in the said Conference;
2. **Invites** the Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers to examine the transport component of the OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (OIC-IDRIP) and submit appropriate recommendations for CFM consideration;
3. **Also invites** project owners and respective OIC development agencies to fast-track the implementation of the various segments of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor, including Dakar-Bamako-Sikasso-Bobo-Dioulasso Railway project;
4. **Calls on** member states to support activities of the Organization of Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA) aimed at enhancing intra-OIC cooperation in maritime transportation;
5. **Takes into account** that the implementation of the Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman Transport Corridor Agreement (Ashgabat Agreement) serves the development of transport communications among OIC member states ;
6. **Encourages** member states to explore possibilities for cooperation in joint training of human resources and sharing of best practices on integrated land, maritime and air transport development, upgrading and maintenance of transport infrastructure.

E. OIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION POLICY

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

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

Also reiterating the provisions of the Resolution No. 1/44-E adopted by 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017, with regard

to the elaboration of OIC policy on infrastructure development and regional integration, as well as to the development of a comprehensive strategic programme/roadmap on practical implementation and resource mobilization for the “Islamic Infrastructure Integration Initiative”, proposed by Kazakhstan ,

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

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

Emphasizing the importance of regional integration for ensuring political stability and building trust, as well as stimulating investment, fostering economic growth and increasing trade among OIC member states,

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

Fully aware of the on-going elaboration of the OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy (OIC-IDRIP) aimed at supporting and mobilizing resources for development of necessary physical and institutional infrastructures to foster the regional integration and economic growth in OIC member states,

Emphasizing that OIC-IDRIP will seek to consolidate gains from earlier OIC regional development programmes and further enhance cooperation in six priority sectors, namely: transport; energy; telecommunication and postal services; trade; industrial development; and agricultural development,

Noting the valuable contributions submitted by a number of OIC member states for incorporating in the Draft OIC Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy,

1. **Commends** member states, which have so far submitted their comments on the Draft of OIC-IDRIP and **requests** other member states to submit their inputs in a timely manner;
2. **Requests** the Secretary General to organize a number of consultative meetings on the sidelines of the relevant OIC sectoral conferences with the participation of the member states and relevant OIC organs/institutions on each of the six priority areas of OIC-IDRIP, as preparatory for Inter-Governmental Experts Group meeting approved by the 44th CFM;
3. **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;

4. **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 46th CFM.

F. REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION THROUGH MULTI-SECTORAL CONNECTIVITY FOR SHARED PROSPERITY

Welcoming resolution 1/44-POA on the OIC 2025: Programme of Action adopted at the Forty Fourth Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers,

Recalling resolution 1/44-E, section on Transport, Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration Policy,

Noting resolution OIC/COMCEC/33-17/RES of the Thirty Third session of the COMCEC,

Underscoring the infrastructure deficit in OIC member states in areas such as transportation, energy, trade and communication,

Reaffirming that connectivity is a cornerstone of regional economic cooperation and integration and is becoming a major priority for developing countries across regions,

Acknowledging that to unlock the potential of ever-more closely interlinked production networks and value chains, a broader perspective on connectivity is key, whereby connectivity is considered as encompassing the development of networks of inter alia, trade, transport, ICT, energy, people, and technology,

Recognizing that access to information and communications technology and related capacity-building, including for youth, older persons, women, people with disabilities, and remote and rural communities, are fundamental to reducing the digital divide, alleviating poverty and achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth,

1. **Encourages** member states to reduce costs of export/import, improve services and promote trade facilitation through the development of adequate multi-modal transport corridors and networks thereby increasing competitiveness of OIC member states;
2. **Calls upon** member states to complete implementation of already proposed regional multi-modal transport networks and in this regard calls upon the concerned organs and institutions of the OIC, including COMCEC and IDB, to facilitate the work, including financial elements.

3. **Stresses** on promoting intra-OIC cooperation to facilitate the transfer and sharing of appropriate, and affordable technology, IT networks and research for industrial development in member states; and for increasing the value addition in Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and natural resource-based industries, paying special attention to employment generation;
4. **Highlights** the importance of utilizing the information superhighway through development of regional fiber optic networks;
5. **Emphasizes** on promoting Public-Private Partnership in OIC member states in the areas of transport, infrastructure development, science, technology and innovation;
6. **Supports** increasing intra-OIC cooperation through programmes aimed at promoting financial resources in order to enhance trade and investment among the OIC member states, including through Islamic finance, such as issuance of Sukuk for infrastructure development in OIC Member States;
7. **Urges** the OIC Secretary General to:
 - a. facilitate completion of the process of drafting a comprehensive OIC Policy for Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration, in consultation with member states and concerned organs and institutions of the OIC, including COMCEC and IDB, and in line with the Policy develop special multi-sectoral connectivity programmes through feasible, need-based, regional and sectoral approaches on building block basis;
 - b. identify areas of cooperation, collaboration and synergy with work being carried out on Connectivity by other international organizations such as the United Nations and relevant regional bodies and initiatives.

G. 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 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 2/45-E
ON
EMPLOYMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The Forty Fifth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development), held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 19-20 Shaban 1439H (5-6 May 2018),

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

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

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

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

Recalling the Resolutions on Economic Issues adopted by 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,

Reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 33rd Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20-23 November 2017,

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, IDB Group and ICCIA,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

A. LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

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 outcome 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 43rd Council of Foreign Ministers,

Taking note of the signing of the Statute of OIC Labour Centre by the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan during 2017,

Recognizing that during the period 2000-2017, total unemployment rate in OIC member states fluctuated between 7.4% and 9.1%, thus emphasizing the need to create new productive jobs and improve the quality of existing ones,

Recognizing also that high youth unemployment rates and a persistent mismatch between the supply and demand for labour in OIC member states continue to pose serious challenges to their developmental efforts,

Emphasizing the importance of full and productive employment and decent work to poverty reduction and social integration,

Reaffirming the need for the operationalization of the Executive Programme for the Implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection,

Taking into account the outcome of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 21-22 February 2018,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the Fourth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 21-22 February 2018,

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

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

1. **Welcomes** the attached Resolution on Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection among the OIC Member States, adopted by the Fourth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 21-22 February 2018, and **urges** all member states and OIC institutions to effectively implement its provisions;

2. **Endorses** the OIC Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Skilled Workforce; and the OIC Standard Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Manpower, which were adopted by the Fourth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 21-22 February 2018, and **invites** all OIC member states to accede to these agreements at their earliest convenience;
3. **Calls upon** member states, which have not done so, as a matter of priority to accede to 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;
4. **Invites** member states to intensify efforts to implement Executive Programme of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, especially those activities relating to development of programmes on occupational health safety and health; organization of the labour market data statistics collection; social security protection for workers; and exchange of information and best practices on labour issues;
5. **Also invites** OIC development agencies to support the implementation of the Executive Programme of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection;
6. **Welcomes** the offer of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to host 5th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) in 2020 and **invites** all member states to actively participate in this event.

B. PRIVATE SECTOR

Reaffirming the relevant provisions of the Resolution No.2/44-E adopted by 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, especially those adopted by the 33rd Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20-23 November 2017,

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

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

Expressing satisfaction with the fact that by the end of 2017, the cumulative private sector approvals of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) had reached US\$ 5.6 billion in support of 380 projects in OIC member states,

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. **Renews its calls on** the Secretary General, in collaboration of relevant OIC institutions, to organize Private Sector events in OIC member states for the purpose of mainstreaming the role of Private Sector in socio-economic development;
2. **Reiterate its request** to member states to designate their umbrella Chambers of Commerce as accredited member of the ICCIA, in order to strengthen the membership of ICCIA as well as consolidating support for this important corporative representative of the OIC;
3. **Requests** ICCIA, in collaboration with the Union of Turkish Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB), to continue work on the establishment of OIC Arbitration Centre in Istanbul, as an affiliated organization of ICCIA;
4. **Calls upon** member states to fully subscribe to the 2nd General Capital Increase of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and **encourages** member states to timely pay for their respective shares and outstanding balance.

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 poverty alleviation,

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 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,

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

I. Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD):

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

Reaffirming its relevant Resolutions on the mobilization of funds for the ISFD, particularly the Resolution No.2/44-E adopted by 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,

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

Also noting that 28 OIC member states and IDB Group have paid their pledges in full, while 10 OIC member states paid their pledges partially, and other 11 OIC member states have yet to pay their pledges,

Further noting the allocation of a plot of land by Benin and Burkina Faso to ISFD under the Waqf Programme as well as expression of interest by Jordan, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Maldives and Sudan to allocate a Waqf land property as in kind contribution to the ISFD,

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

Also recognizing that rates of economic growth vary between OIC member states and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

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

1. **Calls upon** OIC member states, which have not done so, to redeem fully their respective pledges to ISFD and to consider making additional commitments on a voluntary basis, including allocation of Waqf in favour of ISFD, so as to achieve its target capital of US\$ 10 billion;
2. **Also calls upon** OIC member states to support relevant OIC institutions towards enhancing partnership with the Private sector establishments in OIC member states with a view to mobilizing additional funds to ISFD;
3. **Further 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;

4. **Requests** the ISFD authorities to hold workshops in member states having potentials for ISFD investment with involvement of stakeholders, including relevant Government authorities and Waqf related bodies, to familiarize opportunities, ways and procedures of Waqf based investment projects.

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 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 3/45-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 Fifth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development), held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 19-20 Shaban 1439H (5-6 May 2018),

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

Reaffirming the Resolution No.3/44-E adopted by 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017, with regard to Economic Assistance to the OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in Disputed/Occupied and non-OIC countries within the OIC mandate,

Recognizing the contributions of South-South cooperation among OIC member states to the efforts of the needy OIC member states to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

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

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

Concerned about the obstacles OIC member states face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable socio-economic development,

Bearing in mind the requests for assistance on the part of the needy OIC member states,

1. **Commends** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Turkey and IDB Group for providing financial and technical assistance in support of the various development projects in the needy OIC member states and other non-OIC countries;
2. **Calls on** OIC member states and other potential donors to continue to assist the needy OIC member states and Muslim Communities in non-OIC countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth in line with the ideals of partnership, mutual assistance and solidarity among OIC member states;
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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. GENERAL PROVISION:

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to B to the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 4/45-E
ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE COMCEC

The Forty Fifth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development), held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 19-20 Shaban 1439H (5-6 May 2018),

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

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

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

Further recalling the relevant resolutions of COMCEC, in particular COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009,

Reiterating the relevant provisions of the Resolutions on Economic Issues adopted by 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote D'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,

Taking note of the resolutions of the 33rd Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20-23 November 2017,

Expressing 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,

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

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 33rd Session of the COMCEC No. OIC/COMCEC/33-17/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 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No.5/45-E
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RELEVANT OIC INSTITUTIONS
WORKING IN THE ECONOMIC DOMAIN

The Forty Fifth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development), held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 19-20 Shaban 1439H (5-6 May 2018),

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 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote D'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,

Also reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 33rd Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20-23 November 2017,

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

Taking note of the outcome of the Third Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) held at the IDB Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 3-4 December 2017,

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,

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

Bearing in mind the continuous efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing a wide range of capacity building programmes and training courses in different fields and areas of interest to the member states with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of their human resources,

Taking note of the outcome of the 40th Meeting of the Board of Directors of SESRIC, held in Ankara, Turkey on 15 December 2017,

Having taken note of the Report of the Secretary General as well as the report of the SESRIC,

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 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 as well as other capacity building programmes for the benefit of the member states;
6. **Appreciates** the recently initiated training and capacity building programmes of SESRIC, namely the OIC International Internship Programme (OIC-INTERN), Diplomacy Capacity Building Programme (Diplomacy-CaB), and the Employment and Entrepreneurship Development for Inclusive Growth Initiative (SEED).
7. **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);

8. **Urges** the member states, which have not done so thus far, for the on-time and regular payment of their annual mandatory contributions to the budget of the Centre, and to act for the settlement of their outstanding arrears, if any, at the earliest.

B. ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

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

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

Noting with satisfaction the organization by ICDT of the Exceptional OIC Trade Fair in State of Kuwait and specialized exhibitions on Health, Halal Industry, Agribusiness Industries, Green Economy, Furniture and Decoration and other events to be held in 2018 such as Fisheries, Tourism, Higher Education, Health, Social and Solidarity Economy and Islamic Clothing Fashion,

Noting with satisfaction the organization by ICDT of seminars and workshops on TPS-OIC, Single Window, Brexit implications, exports and investment strategies, dispute settlement, online web-marketing for women entrepreneurs, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Non-Tariff Barriers,

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

Noting with satisfaction the outcomes of the “3rd Meeting of the OIC Member States Trade Promotion Organs” and the “Buyers-Sellers Meeting on Pharmaceuticals and Related Industries” organized by ICDT in cooperation with ITFC,

Taking note of the outcomes of the 35th Meeting of ICDT’s Board of Directors, which was held in in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, on 7-8 March 2018,

Having considered the activity report submitted by the ICDT,

1. **Calls on** ICDT to continue extending the technical assistance to the member states in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations and coordinating the positions of member states within the WTO in close cooperation with IDB Group;
2. **Requests** 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, Industry, Agribusiness, Green Economy, Health products and services, 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 providing technical assistance and organizing Training and Awareness raising Seminars on the TPS/OIC and its Protocols in the different regions of the OIC in a bid to sensitize the member states to complete their membership to the TPS/OIC;
4. **Further requests** ICDT to disseminate the outcomes of the survey and the guidelines for setting up Single Windows in the OIC countries and the NTBs survey and to identify best practices to share and facilitating intra-OIC trade;
5. **Requests** ICDT in cooperation with SESRIC to carry on monitoring with World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) the project on “the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa“ and **urges** UNWTO and Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) of IDB Group and other OIC and international institutions to support this project, notably the mission of formulation of bankable projects and the organization of the Second Donors Conference;
6. **Takes note** of the appeal made by the Director General of ICDT to member states to grant voluntary contributions to ICDT in order to finance the new initiatives to be launched by the Centre like the Afro-Asia Trade Bridge and the Single Window and NTBs progressive dismantlement and Trade Facilitation Programme for Africa and OIC HelpDesk;
7. **Endorses** the ICDT draft work programme for the year 2019, which was adopted by the 35th Meeting of ICDT’s Board of Directors held in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, on 7-8 March 2018.

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

Commending the efforts of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) in organizing Forums, Training Programmes, B2B Meetings, Seminars and Workshops, in collaboration with the Member Chambers, OIC institutions and the UN Agencies, in order to galvanize the role of the Private Sector to expand their network and increase their trading and investment opportunities,

Taking note of the outcome of the 25th Board of Directors (BoD) and 33rd General Assembly meetings of ICCIA held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman on 11-12 April 2017,

Noting with appreciation the organization of the Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries in Istanbul, Turkey on 24-26 April 2017, and the Training Programme on Entrepreneurship Development through IT for OIC Countries in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on 7-9 August 2017, respectively,

Aware of the ongoing work by ICCIA and Union of Turkish Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) on the establishment of OIC Arbitration Centre in Istanbul, as an affiliated organization of ICCIA,

Having noted the activity report submitted by the ICCIA,

1. **Calls upon** the member states to encourage their Chambers of Commerce to be actively involved in the ICCIA's programmes, particularly related to development of business, commercial arbitration, SMEs development, food security, tourism, entrepreneurship development, poverty alleviation, microfinance and development of women and youth-led-enterprises;
2. **Also calls upon** the relevant stakeholders to give due consideration to the recommendations of the Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries; and the Training Programme on Entrepreneurship Development through IT for OIC Countries;
3. **Welcomes** the progress made by the ICCIA and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), Konya Chamber of Commerce and Konya Commodity Exchange to introduce the best practices adopted by Konya for the exchange of commodities in Sudan and other interested member states;
4. **Takes note** of the steps in setting up of the OIC Arbitration Center, as per the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, which will be hosted by the Republic of Turkey and TOBB as an organ affiliated to the ICCIA;
5. **Invites** the OIC member states to encourage their private sector establishments and other stakeholders to actively participate in the ICCIA organized events during 2018, particularly: 17th Private Sector Meeting of the OIC Countries; 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries; Training Programme on "Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation and Technology Parks"; and Trade Exchange Forum/Exhibition;
6. **Also invites** OIC member states to encourage their private sector establishments and other stakeholders to actively participate in the Specialized Workshops/Training Programmes on: Development of SMEs; Food Security; Textile and Garments; Renewable Energy; and Tourism; as well as 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 approval of the membership applications of Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and State of Qatar by the 15th SMIIIC Board of Directors Meeting, which has increased the number of SMIIIC member states to 35 along with 3 Observers as of 1st January 2018,

Also welcoming the amendment of SMIIIC Internal Regulations at the 11th SMIIIC General Assembly Meeting held on 7 May 2017 in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey, which will keep SMIIIC up to date with the current international implementations on standardization, metrology and accreditation and shape the SMIIIC's future activities with a clear, transparent, efficient and member states' driven approach and totally in line with the Charter of OIC,

Taking note of the establishment of a Standardization Management Council (SMC) for the execution of the standards development process under SMIIIC, thereby enabling the utmost responsibility and contribution of the member states as well as restructuring of metrology and accreditation activities under the mandate of new organs as Metrology Council and Accreditation Councils,

Welcoming the organization of the SMIIIC Technical Committee Weeks by General Secretariat, which were held on 22-24 May 2017 and on 25-30 September 2017 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey,

Noting with satisfaction the conclusion of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between SMIIIC and GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) on 26 November 2017 in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey, aimed at continuing cooperation and constructive working relations between SMIIIC and GSO, in order to enhance communication and coordination with a view to boosting standardization activities through harmonization of standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and accreditation,

Acknowledging the role of SMIIIC in achieving the 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 appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for convening the 5th OIC Halal Expo and World Halal Summit (WHS) Istanbul 2017, in cooperation with Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIIC) and Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-25 November 2017,

Acknowledging the capacity building activities of SMIIIC for OIC member states in the field of quality infrastructure elements,

Welcoming the organization of the SMIIIC Training Programme 2017 about Introduction, implementation and use of OIC/SMIIIC Halal Standards and OIC/SMIIIC 1: 2011 General Guidelines on Halal Food Auditor Training on 11-16 December 2017 in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey with the support of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIIC),

Taking note of the elections of Standardization Management Council and management of Accreditation Council for the term 2018-2020 at the 15th SMIIC Board of Directors on 25 November 2017 as well as the re-election of current Secretary General and election of Board of Directors members for the term 2018-2020 at the 12th SMIIC General Assembly Meeting on 26 November 2017 in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey,

Welcoming the activities of SMIIC in the area of standardization, metrology and accreditation and their impact on trade facilitation and capacity building projects for member states,

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

1. **Urges** the member states to accede to the membership of SMIIC, which works on the specialized areas of the standardization, metrology and accreditation activities under the mandate of OIC as the sole intergovernmental organization;
2. **Requests** the member states to actively participate in its Technical Committees (TCs) and other technical activities of SMIIC Councils;
3. **Invites** OIC member states to adopt and use the OIC/SMIIC Standards as their national standards in order to aid the harmonization of standards and eliminate the technical barriers to trade among OIC member states;
4. **Calls upon** OIC member states, who are using OIC/SMIIC Standards to officially adopt the standards according to SMIIC adoption guidelines and include in the SMIIC database;
5. **Requests** the member states to engage in close cooperation with SMIIC and OIC Institutions in order to improve the quality infrastructure systems of the OIC Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
6. **Calls upon** the member states to participate in the 6th OIC Halal Expo and World Halal Summit 2018 to be held under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey on 29 November - 2 December 2018 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, which will be organized in coordination with SMIIC and Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT);
7. **Invites** all interested parties to cooperate on halal standards, certification, accreditation and related issues with the SMIIC as the only technically competent and authorized platform of the OIC ;
8. **Agrees** on the need for the establishment of a global halal conformity assessment system under SMIIC in order to provide a basis for the mutual recognition of halal certificates between accreditation bodies.

9. **Further calls upon** the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) to support SMIIIC and provide it with any necessary fatwa and advice, particularly regarding halal issues;
10. **Requests** the member states to participate and contribute to the various training programs conducted by SMIIIC, including OIC/SMIIIC Standards and OIC/SMIIIC 1 Halal Food auditors training programmes;
11. **Invites** IDB Group and related OIC institutions to support SMIIIC with training and programmes in the fields of standardization 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 39th Executive Committee and 31st Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association held in Dubai, United Arab of Emirates on 25 October 2017,

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 member states 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 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.



OIC/10-ICTM/2018/RES/FINAL

Original: English

**RESOLUTION
ON
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG
THE OIC MEMBER STATES**

ADOPTED BY

**THE 10TH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC
CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS (ICTM)**

DHAKA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
5-7 February 2018

RESOLUTION
ON
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG
THE OIC MEMBER STATES

The Tenth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held from 5-7 February 2018, in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh,

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,

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

Re-affirming the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between OIC Member States adopted by the Sixth Session of Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, on 29 June- 2 July 2008,

Also re-affirming the resolutions adopted by the various sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), particularly, resolution No. 1/44-E of the Forty Fourth Session of CFM, held Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the previous Sessions of the ICTM,

Conscious of the central role of tourism in promoting economic, social and cultural interactions among nations, and in contributing to international peace, security and understanding,

Re-iterating the relevance of sustainable tourism to the actualisation of OIC poverty eradication strategies and policies and as a potential contributor to sustainable development,

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 appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for organising the Fourth and Fifth Meetings of OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Forum, held in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-15 January 2016 and 4 May 2017 respectively,

Further expressing appreciation to SESRIC and ICDT for preparation of the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States and the Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market respectively,

Taking note with appreciation of the Report titled “International Tourism in the OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges: 2017”, which is prepared and presented by SESRIC,

Also taking note of the Report and Recommendations of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Islamic Tourism, held in Padang, West Sumatra, Republic of Indonesia, on 29 September 2016,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of 33rd Session of the COMCEC in the field of tourism held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20-23 November 2017,

Commending the efforts of the standing Committee for Economic and commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing tourism cooperation among the OIC Member States especially through the COMCEC tourism Working group and COMCEC Project funding Mechanism,

Noting with appreciation the 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,

Mindful of the strategy for the development of cultural tourism in the Islamic World as established by ISESCO and adopted by the Sixth Islamic Conference of Cultural Ministers, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan in 2009,

Also taking note of the activities of the relevant OIC institutions towards implementation of the resolutions of the ICTM, particularly those relating to the commemoration of Konya and Madinah Al Munawwarah, as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2016 and 2017 respectively, capacity- building programmes in the domain of tourism within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme of SESRIC, and implementation of the Regional Project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”,

Considering the outcome of the Sixth Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 13 November 2017 with regard to the selection of the OIC City of Tourism Awardees for 2019 and 2020 respectively,

Having considered the Progress Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the ICTM resolutions on tourism development as well as the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism Among OIC Member States:

1. **Approves** the recommendations contained in Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States, and **requests** General Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the Roadmap;
2. **Endorses** the findings contained in the Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market, and invites the General Secretariat to submit a relevant implementation plan in coordination with Member States, all relevant OIC institutions and other stakeholders;

3. **Commends** the elaborate plans by the relevant OIC institutions for the commemoration of Tabriz, as the OIC City of Tourism 2018 including the ICDT proposal of the organization of the “Islamic Clothing Fashion Expo and Conference in collaboration with the relevant authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran and **urges** OIC Member States to actively participate in the said Expo and Conference;
4. **Approves** the selection of Dhaka, People’s Republic of Bangladesh as the OIC City of Tourism 2019, and Gabala, Republic of Azerbaijan as the OIC City of Tourism 2020;
5. **Requests** the Secretary General to ensure that commemoration of OIC City of Tourism includes two major activities namely:
 - (1) Cultural/Arts/Heritage Festival;
 - (2) Development of one tourism infrastructure project;
6. **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;
7. **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;
8. **Also calls on** OIC Member States to support the staging of OIC Tourism Fairs on the sidelines of ICTM with the full participation and involvement of the Private Sector establishment and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) of OIC Member States;
9. **Welcomes** the offers of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd and 4th Tourism Fairs of the OIC Member States to be organized in Cairo on 28-29 October 2018 and in Tehran in 2019 respectively in cooperation with the ICDT and **urges** Member States to actively participate in these events;
10. **Calls on** the Member States, IDB Group and other funding institutions, bilateral and multilateral development assistance bodies, enterprises and institutions of the private sector and concerned OIC institutions, including ICDT and SESRIC, to contribute to the financing of the Regional Project of Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa, including the 2nd Donors Conference to facilitate the implementation of this Project;
11. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Sixth Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum on March 8th, 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey with the theme of “Cultural Heritage as a Tool of Sustainable Tourism in the OIC Region” and **calls upon** Member States and their Private Sector entities to actively participate in this Meeting;

12. **Calls upon** Member States and their Private Sector entities to benefit from the “COMCEC Muslim Friendly tourism (MFT) Guideline”, which was adopted by the said Session as a reference document;
13. **Emphasises** the need to rigorously implement earlier ICTM resolutions on the Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts and the Heritage Center for Islamic Countries;
14. **Also calls on** all Member States, IDB Group and other OIC Institutions as well as Funding Partners to give priority to the Islamic Heritage Project presented by Bangladesh;
15. **Further calls on** OIC Member States, IDB and other OIC Institutions to support the project for human resource development in Bangladesh in the domain of tourism;
16. **Expresses** its profound thanks and gratitude the Government and the people of People’s Republic of Bangladesh for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the successful conclusion of the Tenth Session of the ICTM;
17. **Welcomes** the designation of Al-Quds Al-Sherif as the OIC Youth Capital 2018 by the Islamic Conference of Youth Forum – Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) and **requests** all OIC Members States and Institutions to support this initiative;
18. **Welcomes** the offer by the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) in 2020;
19. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a report to the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers.

Dhaka, 6 February 2018

OIC/4ICLM/2018/RES/FINAL

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
4th ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
OF LABOUR MINISTERS**

JEDDAH , KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

5-6 JUMADA AL-AKHIRAH 1439H

(21-22 FEBRUARY 2018)

RESOLUTION
ON
THE COOPERATION ON LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
AMONG THE OIC MEMBER STATES

The Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, held from 5 to 6 Jumada Al-Akhirah 1439H (21-22 February 2018), in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

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

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, particularly the relevant goals relating to labour, employment and social protection,

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 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 43rd Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

Taking note of the signing of the Statute of OIC Labour Centre by the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan during 2017,

Considering the outcome of the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia on 10 April 2017,

Also considering the recommendations of the Workshop on Research and Studies on Islamic Concepts and Practices relating to employment, which was held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia on 11-12 April 2017,

Taking note that the "General Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)" have been adopted by SMIC as the OIC/SMIC 5 Standard on 7 April 2017 and are available for use by all OIC member states,

Conscious of the fact that unemployment, especially among youth, remains one of the serious challenges for developmental efforts of many OIC member states,

Noting that the causes of unemployment in many OIC member states are attributed to shortage of job opportunities, skills mismatch, low productivity, macroeconomic instability, seasonality of jobs, disconnect between the demands of employers and the output of education systems, among others,

Recognizing that young people in most OIC member states continue to lack access to basic social services and decent work opportunities,

Also recognizing that creating more quality jobs is an indispensable factor for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, and a prerequisite for inclusive and sustainable development in OIC member states,

Further recognizing that unemployment and underemployment are the ultimate causes of radicalization of youth in Afghanistan and other OIC member states,

Reaffirming the importance of public and private investment, well-functioning skill systems, as well as programmes for promoting better employment opportunities in order to address unemployment,

Bearing in mind that the OIC member states feature countries that export labour force and countries that receive foreign labour force, and the need for a safe, orderly and regular labour migration within the OIC member states,

Desirous of formulating a framework agreement on promoting intra-OIC mobility among skilled workforce and improving access for them to the OIC Labour Market,

Reiterating commitment to further implement OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection and other OIC decisions on labour, employment and social issues,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

1. **Approves** the provisions of the OIC Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Skilled Workforce aimed at facilitating intra-OIC skilled labour mobility and **urges** member states to enter into bilateral or multilateral negotiations on sectoral MRAs;
2. **Also approves** the provisions of the OIC Standard Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Manpower aimed at facilitating admission and movement of workforce within OIC member states, and **urges** member states to proceed expeditiously with its execution on bilateral basis;
3. **Welcomes** the OIC Labour Market Strategy, which outlines the priority areas of intra-OIC-cooperation on labour, employment and social issues, and to this end,

encourages member states to take necessary measures to implement the Strategy in a holistic and efficient manner; including sending their responses gradually;

4. **Invites** member states to intensify efforts to implement Executive Programme of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, with particular reference to development of programmes on occupational health safety and health at workplace; establishment of an OIC Labour and Professional Training Observatory; legal protection for employees and labour market legislations; social security protection for workers; and exchange of knowledge and best practices on labour issues;
5. **Affirms** the resolution adopted by the Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers on Turkey's proposal to establish an OIC Occupational Safety and Health Center in Ankara in the framework of the proposed OIC Labour Center;
6. **Reiterates** continued support for the Palestinian people particularly its workers, especially in the fields of training and rehabilitation and support for the employment and social protection fund;
7. **Invites** member states to follow-up the annual report of the Director General of International Labour Organization (ILO) on Palestinian workers and to create executive mechanisms to help in stopping aggression by Israel, the occupation authority, against Palestinian workers;
8. **Calls upon** member states, which have not done so, 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;
9. **Also calls upon** labour receiving member states to prioritize signing bilateral labour MoUs, and open effective labour migration corridors in line with the aligned interests of labour sending and receiving countries towards OIC member states currently with: i) no access to international labour market in a regularized manner; ii) high unemployment and underemployment; and iii) high risk of youth radicalization;
10. **Expresses appreciation** to the Government of Azerbaijan for facilitating the early take-off of the Secretariat of OIC Labour Centre within the process of consolidating the approved organs of the new OIC specialized institution, upon the provisional entry into force of the Statute of OIC Labour Centre;
11. **Also expresses appreciation** to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the Fourth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers and for its impressive arrangements, which ensured the success of the Conference;

12. **Welcomes** the offer of the Government of United Arab Emirates to host the Fifth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) in 2020, and **requests** the Secretary General to consult with relevant authorities of the United Arab Emirates on the date and other arrangements thereto;
13. **Also requests** the Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a progress report to the 5th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers.

**Adopted in Jeddah,
22 February 2018
(6 Jumada Al-Akhirah 1439H)**

Final

**OIC AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION
ARRANGEMENT OF SKILLED WORKFORCE**

OIC AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT OF SKILLED WORKFORCE

PREAMBLE

The Governments of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),
Recognizing the objectives of the OIC Charter on strengthening efforts and cooperation to achieve sustainable and comprehensive human development and economic well-being in Member States,

Noting the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States adopted in 1977, which provides for giving priority to manpower from the Member States,

Recognizing the need to harness the full potential of the human capital in OIC Member States,
Noting that the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection adopted in 2013, recognizes the need for facilitating movement of workforce within OIC Member States,

Desirous of formulating a framework agreement on promoting intra-OIC mobility among skilled workforce and improving access for them to the OIC Labour Market,

Have adopted this Agreement:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:
 - (a) ‘profession’: a professional activity, access to which, the pursuit of which, or one of the modes of pursuit of which is subject, directly or indirectly, by virtue of legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions to the possession of specific professional qualifications;
 - (b) ‘professional qualifications’: qualifications attested by evidence of formal qualifications, an attestation of competence and/or professional experience;
 - (c) ‘certificate of formal qualifications’: diplomas, certificates and other evidence issued by an authority in a Member State, which is designated pursuant to legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions of that Member State to certify successful completion of professional training;
 - (d) ‘competent authority’: any authority or body empowered by a Member State specifically to issue or receive training diplomas and other documents or information and to receive the applications, and take the decisions, referred to in this Agreement;

- (e) 'professional experience': the aggregate of the knowledge acquired by a person in the course of his work;
 - (f) 'home Member State': the OIC Member State, from where a beneficiary comes ;
 - (g) 'home Member State': the OIC Member State, from where a beneficiary comes ;
 - (h) 'host Member State': the OIC Member State, where a beneficiary applies for a job;
- 'a single contact point': a designated government body for dealing with issues or problems attendant to the present agreement and its implementation.

Article 2

Purpose

This Agreement establishes rules according to which one Member State, which makes access to profession in its territory upon possession of specific professional qualifications, shall recognize professional qualifications obtained in another Member State and allow the holder of the said qualifications to pursue the same profession there, in freedom, equality, security and human dignity, unless otherwise provided for in its national legislation.

Article 3

Scope

1. This Agreement shall apply to all nationals of a Member State wishing to pursue a profession in another Member State.
2. Each Member State may permit other Member State nationals in possession of certificate of professional qualifications not obtained in that Member State to pursue a profession on its territory in accordance with its rules and regulations.
3. For the purpose of this Agreement nationals of one Member State can be allowed to pursue their profession in another Member State, in accordance with the national legislation of that host Member State, in such occupations as accounting; tourism; engineering; health; architectural and construction services; among others.
4. Allowing nationals of one Member State to work in closed professions in another Member State shall be in accordance with the conditions and procedures in place in that host Member State.
5. The present Agreement does not apply to professions, which have health or safety implications for workers.

Article 4

Effects of recognition

1. The recognition of professional qualifications by the host Member State allows the beneficiary to gain access in that Member State to the same profession as that for which he is qualified in the home Member State and to pursue it in the host Member State under the same conditions as its nationals, unless national legislation provides otherwise.
2. For the purposes of this Agreement, the profession which the applicant wishes to pursue in the host Member State must be the same as that for which he is qualified in his home Member State if the activities covered are comparable.

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Article 5

Conditions for recognition

1. If access to or pursuit of a profession in a host Member State is contingent upon possession of specific professional qualifications, the competent authority of that Member State shall permit access to and pursuit of that profession, under the same conditions as apply to its nationals, to applicants possessing the attestation of competence or evidence of formal qualifications given by another Member State in order to gain access to and pursue that profession on its territory, unless national legislation provides otherwise.
2. Certificates of competence or evidence of formal qualifications shall satisfy the following conditions:
 - (a) they shall have been issued by a competent authority in a Member State, designated in accordance with the legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions of that Member State;
 - (b) they shall attest a level of professional qualification at least equivalent to the level which is required in the host Member State;
 - (c) they shall attest that the applicant has been prepared for the pursuit of the profession in question;
 - (d) they shall be in line with the national qualifications regulations, through direct bilateral agreements co-signed by the OIC Member States, the aim being to verify both the workforce qualifications and the Member States' issuing authority, under the same provisions as applicable in that Member State, and to ensure effective verification of foreign qualifications and their issuing authorities, thus facilitating the mobility of job seekers and individuals seeking employment or training opportunities within the OIC Member States.

Article 6

Equal treatment of qualifications

Any evidence of formal qualifications or set of evidence of formal qualifications issued by a competent authority in a Member State, certifying successful completion of training in that Member State, could be treated as evidence of formal qualifications obtained in another Member State.

Article 7

Recognition of professional experience

If, in a Member State, access to or pursuit of activity is contingent upon possession of general or professional knowledge and skills, that Member State shall recognize previous pursuit of the activity in another Member State as sufficient proof of such knowledge and skills, provided that the activities in question are comparable.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Article 8

Competent authorities

1. The competent authorities of the host Member State and of the home Member State shall work in close collaboration and shall provide mutual assistance in order to facilitate implementation of this Agreement.
2. Each Member State shall designate the competent authority, which will be the coordinating agency for the implementation of the Agreement, and shall inform the other Member States thereof.
3. A competent authority is an institution, which will:
 - i. determine the accuracy, validity and equivalency of the proof presented by the people who want to work;
 - ii. make a decision on the sufficiency of proof for people to work; and
 - iii. determine the path people should follow in case the qualifications owned are not equivalent to those in the host Member State.
4. Each Member State shall designate a single contact point for dealing with issues or problems attendant to the present agreement and its implementation. The task of the single contact point will include:
 - i. providing the citizens and contact points of other Member States with information on the national legislation regulating recognition of professional qualifications and pursuit of professions;

- ii. providing help to the citizens in cooperation with the competent authorities of the host Member State and other contact points, when necessary, so that they can exercise the rights given to them under this Agreement.

Article 9

Reports

Each Member State shall send a report to the OIC General Secretariat every three years on the implementation of the present Agreement. In addition to general observations, this report shall contain a statistical summary of decisions taken and a description of the main problems arising from the implementation of this Agreement.

Article 10

OIC Coordinating Committee

1. An OIC Coordinating Committee shall be established comprising representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the OIC Secretary General to meet regularly to facilitate the implementation of this Agreement, to seek greater understanding of existing policies, procedures and practices, and to develop and promote strategies to manage the implementation of this Agreement.
2. The Committee shall adopt its bylaws.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 11

Amendments

This Agreement shall be amended with the consent of all signatories in case of the following:

- i) Request by one or more of the states parties;
- ii) A recommendation thereon as a result of the periodic review.

Article 12

Settlement of Disputes

In the event of a disagreement between two or more states parties with respect to the interpretation or application of any clause of this Agreement, the consultation should be initiated among all states parties with a view to resolving the matter.

Article 13

Entry into force

1. This Agreement shall be open for signature of OIC member states following its adoption by the CFM. It shall be applied provisionally upon signing by at least ten (10) OIC member states, whose legislations so allow, through their accredited representatives, and definitively enter into force upon the 30th day from the date of submission of the 10th instrument of ratification or acceptance.

2. For any OIC member state, which signs, ratifies or accepts this Statute after its entry into force, this Agreement shall enter into force on the 30th day after the date when an instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession is submitted. The instruments of ratification, acceptance or accession to this Agreement shall be deposited with the OIC Secretary General.

Article 14

Withdrawal

1. Any OIC member state party to the present Agreement shall have the right to withdraw from this Agreement through a written notification to the OIC Secretary General one year before its withdrawal, and the OIC Secretary General shall, thereafter, notify other OIC Member States of the same.

Article 15

The Original of the Agreement

1. The original of this Agreement, of which the Arabic, English and French texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the OIC Secretary General, who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each OIC Member State.

Article 16

Agreements with third countries

1. The OIC Member States, which are parties to this Agreement, hereby agree that mutual recognition agreements concluded by either OIC Member State with another OIC Member State that is not party to this Agreement shall in no circumstances entail an obligation upon the other party in terms of the acceptance of this Agreement in that OIC Member State, unless there is an explicit agreement between the parties.

FINAL

**OIC STANDARD BILATERAL AGREEMENT
ON EXCHANGE OF MANPOWER**

**OIC STANDARD BILATERAL AGREEMENT
ON EXCHANGE OF MANPOWER**

The Government of _____ and the Government of _____,
hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”;

Bearing in mind the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and their people;

Desirous of enhancing existing friendly relations between the two countries by way of developing their cooperation in the field of manpower based on mutual benefit;

Recognizing the benefits to be derived by both countries from close cooperation in the field of manpower;

Pursuant to the prevailing laws and regulations in the respective countries;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purpose of the present Agreement, the terms below shall be understood as follows:

- (1) “Worker” means a temporary contractual worker employed in any of the countries of the Parties for a certain period of time, after which the worker shall leave the host country, unless he has another job, to his country of origin or elsewhere.
- (2) "Party": every natural or moral person, be it public or private, who has a work relation with another party.
- (3) “Placement of worker” means in the framework of the demand and the supply of workers based on the working contract agreed on by both parties.
- (4) “Employer” means any government institution or private entity granted approval by the relevant authorities in the receiving country to employ manpower from the sending country.

- (5) "Labor contract" means the agreement concluded between an employer and a worker which includes rights and obligations, and which is signed by both parties and approved by the relevant authorities of both parties, before the employee joins the country of employment.
- (6) "Recruitment agencies" means a recruitment service or the relevant governmental body approved by the respective governments of both parties for the purpose of recruiting workers.
- (7) "Job order" means document on the needs for workers and the terms and working conditions known to the relevant authorities of both Parties.
- (8) "Governmental parties": ministries of labor or any other public structure.

Article 2

The Ministries of Labor of the Parties (or such other designated body) shall implement the provisions of this Agreement, taking into consideration previous agreements.

Article 3

The Parties agree that the recruitment of workers for employment in their countries shall be conducted in accordance with this Agreement, taking into consideration previous agreements.

Article 4

Recruitment of workers, as indicated in Article 3 above, shall be regulated both in accordance with relevant laws, rules and procedures of the two countries, and by international labor standards of non-discrimination and prohibition of slavery. It shall be carried out by the relevant government institution or through the private recruitment agencies licensed for this purpose.

Article 5

Placement of workers in this Agreement is subject to performing an agreed work for the employer and shall be given protection pursuant to the labor law and regulation in force in the receiving country.

Article 6

The recruitment of workers shall be in accordance with job order. The job order shall contain the required specifications and qualifications for the jobs needed. It shall include the terms and conditions of employment, especially the salary, accommodation, transportation, social protection and other relevant terms.

Article 7

- (1) The terms and conditions of employment in the receiving country shall be defined in the Labour Contract between the worker and the employer. The contract shall clearly state the rights and obligations of the two sides, such as salary, accommodation, transportation and other relevant terms, and shall be in line with the labor law and regulation of the receiving country.
- (2) The Labour Contact shall be made in the agreed language(s), where the language is more than one, all versions shall be equally valid and authentic for all legal purposes and shall be duly authenticated by the relevant authority in the receiving country.

Article 8

Workers shall have the right, in accordance with the financial regulations and the national law of the receiving country, to remit all their savings to their country of origin or elsewhere.

Article 9

In case of a dispute between the employer and the worker, complaint shall be presented to the competent department in the relevant authority of the receiving country to deal with the latter in accordance with its national legislation.

Article 10

The respective Parties shall take appropriate action against employers or the recruitment agencies or the workers that contravene the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 11

The two Parties shall facilitate the repatriation of the workers upon the termination of their employment contract, and the employer shall bear the cost of their repatriation, unless a new employment contract is concluded by virtue of the provisions of national legislation.

Article 12

- (1) The two parties shall establish a joint committee to review and take care of the follow-up of the implementation of this Agreement. The committee shall be composed, at least, of three members of each party, and shall meet annually or when it is deemed necessary. Otherwise, in certain circumstances where the meeting cannot be held, documents shall be exchanged in lieu of such meeting.
- (2) The committee shall identify sectors to which the provisions of this Agreement will be applied.
- (3) The committee shall set down the procedures, plans and recommended programs of cooperation, towards achieving its aims through the competent official agencies.
- (4) The two parties shall also endeavor to share information, studies and statistics regarding manpower in each party.

Article 13

Any disputes or differences arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through consultations and/or negotiations through diplomatic channels between the two Parties.

Article 14

Either Party may request in writing an amendment, a modification or a supplemental agreement, which shall be considered as an integral part of this Agreement and shall come into effect on the date determined by both Parties.

Article 15

- (1) This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing.
- (2) This Agreement shall continue to be in force unless it is denounced in writing by either party giving three (3) months' notice in advance.

(3) The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity and duration of any arrangement made under this Agreement until the completion of such arrangement, or unless otherwise by the two Parties.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at _____ on _____ in duplicate in _____ and _____ languages, all texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of

For the Government of

Original: English

**RESOLUTION
OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION
OF THE COMCEC
(İstanbul, 20-23 November 2017)**

The Thirty-Third Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 20- 23 November 2017 in İstanbul, Turkey;

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

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 32nd Session of the COMCEC;

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

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

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

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

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

1- **Welcomes** the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy; **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- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to regularly report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions, the Follow-up Committee Meetings and other relevant OIC fora.

3- **Welcomes** the successful convening of the COMCEC Working Groups in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC and **also welcomes** the research studies and sectoral outlooks conducted and prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for enriching the discussions in each COMCEC Working Group Meeting.

4- **Commends** the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their fields of competence and **welcomes** the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in February-April and September-November 2017.

5- **Also commending** the efforts of the Member Countries and OIC Institutions for the realization of COMCEC Ministerial policy recommendations, **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.

6- **Welcomes** the finalization of the nine projects funded under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2016 and the progress achieved in the implementation of the fourteen new projects under the fourth project call in 2017, and **also welcomes** the fifth project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2017.

- 7- **Invites** the Member Countries to utilize the COMCEC Project Funding to implement the policy recommendations developed in the COMCEC Working Groups and adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions.
- 8- **Calls on** the COMCEC National and Working Group Focal points to work more closely with the COMCEC Coordination Office for effective coordination and communication.
- 9- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to continue to update member states' missions in Ankara as well as OIC permanent representatives about the work of the COMCEC.
- 10- **Invites** the Member Countries to ensure the participation of the COMCEC National Focal Points and COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions.
- 11- **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.
- 12- **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 yet, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups.
- 13- **Welcomes** the holding of the Fifth Annual Coordination Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office on 23-25 May 2017 in Ankara, Turkey.
- 14- **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 COMCEC Policy Recommendations.
- 15- **Also calls upon** the working group focal points to be actively involved in the knowledge production efforts of the COMCEC through, among others assisting in collection and verification of country specific data and providing feedbacks to research studies.

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

17- **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.

18- **Adopts** the recommendations of the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held on 10-11 May 2017 in Ankara, Turkey.

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

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

20- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 31st and 32nd Session 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 the Follow-up Meetings.

21- **Taking note of** the preparations by the OIC General Secretariat for the Implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, **calls upon** to Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions/Organs which have not done so yet to share their inputs and comments to the economic sections of the Implementation Plan of OIC-2025: Programme of Action for its further development and **requests** the OIC General Secretariat to make the necessary modifications in the relevant sections of the implementation plan in accordance with the observations and report them to the 34th Session of the COMCEC for consideration.

22- **Calls upon** the OIC General Secretariat to invite the relevant OIC Institutions and Organs, including the COMCEC Coordination Office to the Annual Coordination Meetings of the OIC Institutions for ensuring the effective coordination and synergy in the economic activities to be undertaken under the OIC-2025: Programme of Action.

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

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

24- **Takes note of** the 2017 edition of SESRIC’s annual economic report titled “Industrial Development for Structural Transformation”. Given the inadequate share of OIC countries in global manufacturing activities, growing trade deficit in manufacturing products and lack of industrial competitiveness, as found in the report:

- **Calls upon** Member States to refocus their attention to effective industrialization policies with a view to enhancing economic diversification and productivity in manufacturing sector, narrowing the gap in economic development and increasing industrial competitiveness at global level.
- **Invites** Member States to establish a strong collaboration at regional level by ensuring better connectivity, integration of production processes (value chains), alignment of regulatory policies, and effective support to trade and investment policies with a view to utilizing huge market for manufactures in facilitating economies of scale for national industries, creating incentives to specialize and trade in diversified products, and improving production efficiency.

25- **Highlighting** the importance of the issues regarding youth unemployment, SME development, productivity, vocational education, trade in services and knowledge economy, **called upon** the SESRIC and the other relevant OIC Institutions to elaborate more on these topics in their future programmes and activities.

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

Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 5)

27- **Taking note with appreciation of** the convening of the Ninth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on March 9th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Single Window Systems in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Strengthening Single Window efforts in OIC Member States by developing integrated Single Window strategies that reflect national and regional requirements and actively engage the stakeholders in this process,
- Improving the effectiveness of Single Window projects by identifying and implementing necessary changes in the laws and regulatory framework and operational practices,
- Prioritizing flexibility, scalability, safety and interoperability of IT architecture of Single Windows Systems,
- Promoting cross-border interconnectivity and interoperability of the national Single Window Systems in the OIC Region towards establishing Regional Single Window Systems.

(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex)

28- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Tenth Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on November 2nd, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Special Economic Zones in the OIC Member States”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations:

- Designing and programming Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in line with national economic strategies for ensuring their complementarity with national economic growth targets and industry sector priorities,
- Improving economic performance of SEZ programmes through developing unique incentives frameworks – fiscal and non-fiscal - which attract investments and foster effective and efficient business environments,
- Improving the competitive advantage of SEZ programmes through effective site and sector targeting based on a robust understanding of national economic priorities and competitive advantages,
- Designing an efficient legal and regulatory framework to create a ‘special’ economic operating environment, which considers and complements the existing legal and regulatory environment,

- Assigning/Establishing a single SEZ authority to regulate all SEZs within the country and supporting SEZ programmes through active involvement of key stakeholders and development of SEZ working groups.

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

29- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend the 11th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held on 7-8 March 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “Facilitating Trade: Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States” and the 12th Meeting to be organized on November 1st, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Authorized Economic Operators Programs in the OIC Member States” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Trade Working Group.

30- **Commends** the efforts of Uganda in partnership with Turkey and Egypt for the successful implementation of the project titled “Improving delivery of trade facilitation services” under the third project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2016.

31- **Also commends** the efforts of Palestine, Suriname and ICDT for the following projects to be finalized in 2017 under the fourth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

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

32- **Expresses its appreciation** to the United Arab Emirates for hosting and ICDT and IDB for organizing the workshop on “Trade Facilitation and Single Window in OIC Member States” on 16 - 18 April 2017 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

33- **Notes with appreciation that** the “3rd Meeting of the OIC Member States Trade Promotion Organs” was hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco and organized by ICDT on 11-12 October 2017 in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco in collaboration Exports Promotion Centre of Morocco (Maroc-Export) and ITFC.

34- **Expresses its appreciation to** the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and ICDT for organizing the “Workshop on Non-Tariff Barriers among the OIC Member States” on 24- 25 October 2017 in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco under the COMCEC Project Funding.

35- **Also expresses its appreciation to** the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire for hosting and ICDT and ITFC for organizing the “Buyers-Sellers Meeting on Pharmaceuticals and Related Industries” on 2-3 November 2017 in Abidjan, the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire.

36- **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in the trade related activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in 2018 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.

i) TPS-OIC

37- **Welcomes** the signing and ratification of the TPS-OIC Framework Agreement by Brunei Darussalam and **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.

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

39- **Invites** the concerned participating Member Countries to convey their updated concession lists at their earliest convenience to the TNC Secretariat with a view to operationalize the TPS-OIC.

40- **Expresses its appreciation to** the Republic of Indonesia for hosting and ICDT for organizing the “Training Workshop on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States” in collaboration with the COMCEC Coordination Office on 13 - 14 September 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

41- **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.

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

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

43- **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:

- Malaysia for hosting and ICDT for co-organizing with OIC BIZ Malaysia, the 8th OIC World BIZ in Kuala Lumpur on 18-21 September 2017;
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting and ICDT for organizing the “10th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” in Jeddah on 23- 26 April 2017.
- The Republic of Senegal for hosting “1st OIC Green Economy Expo” on 26-29 October 2017

44- **Welcomes** the offer of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT in 2017-2018 and **requests** all Member States to encourage active participation of their private sector and relevant institutions in these events:

- The Republic of Turkey to host the “5th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 23-25 November 2017 in cooperation with SMIIC,
- The State of Kuwait to host an “Exceptional OIC Trade Fair” in Kuwait-City on 6-10 February 2018,
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the “2nd Exhibition on Furniture and Decoration of the OIC Member States” on 13-16 March 2018 and “11th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States” on 20- 23 March 2018 in Jeddah
- The Republic of Senegal to host the “1st OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo” in May 2018 in Dakar,

- Cote d’Ivoire to host the “4th Health Fair” in 2018 and “1st Forum on Social Economy and Solidarity among the Member Countries” and “Ivorian Handicraft Market” on 30 March- 8 April 2018 in Abidjan in collaboration with the IDB.
- The Islamic Republic of Iran to host the “Islamic Clothing Fashion Expo and Conference” on 22-25 April 2018 in Tehran,
- The Kingdom of Morocco to host the “Conference and Expo of Arab African on Logistics and Transportation” in Rabat on 25-27 April 2018,
- The Arab Republic of Egypt to host the “3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States” in Cairo in the second half of 2018,
- The Kingdom of Morocco to host the “4th Higher Education Services among the OIC Member States” in Casablanca on 26-29 April 2018,
- The Republic of Turkey to host the “6th OIC Halal Expo” in Istanbul on 29 November-1 December 2018 in cooperation with SMIIC.

45- **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.

46- **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

47- **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.

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

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

50- **Expresses its appreciation** to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and ICDT for organizing the Workshop on “Mechanisms for Settlement of Trade and Investment Disputes for OIC Member States” in Casablanca, Morocco on 20-21 February 2017.

51- **Also expresses its appreciation** to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and ICDT, IDB and SESRIC for jointly organizing the Workshop on “Trade in Services in OIC Member States” in Casablanca, Morocco, on 22-23 March 2017 and the Workshop on the “Preparation of WTO Ministerial Conference 11: An African Perspective” on 17-19 July 2017, Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco.

52- **Requests ICDT and IDB Group** to submit a working paper for the consideration of the next COMCEC meeting about practical options to increase OIC Ministers of Trade Coordination vis-à-vis recent developments in the negotiations at the WTO and to formulate positions on priority issues for OIC countries in the current Doha Development Round and on new issues currently being proposed in the WTO.

iv) Trade Financing Activities

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

54- **Takes note with appreciation** that ITFC’s cumulative approvals and disbursement in trade finance reached, since its inception until now, US\$38.6 billion and US\$28.8 billion respectively, and its total approvals and disbursement in 2016 reached US\$4.5 billion and US\$4.8 billion respectively.

55- **Also takes note with appreciation** IDB Group’s (ITFC and ICIEC) increased regional presence through the Dakar Regional Office and Country Gateway Offices in Dhaka, Istanbul, Jakarta and Dubai which brought ITFC and ICIEC closer to clients and enabled it to serve member countries' needs.

56- **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.

57- **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.

58- **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 development and finance facilities of the ITFC and **encourages** the private sector organizations of the Member States to actively participate in the Forum.

59- **Takes note of** the trade promotion and capacity development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB), Trade Knowledge Network and Trade Development Forum to raise awareness of the private sectors on the activities of the ITFC.

60- **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.

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

62- **Welcomes** the organization of the launching Forum of the Arab-Africa Trade Bridges (AATB) on 22-23 February 2017 in Rabat in collaboration between Kingdom of Morocco and ITFC.

63- **Appreciates** the ITFC's introduction of the Development Impact Framework as a tool to measure the impact of all ITFC interventions in the OIC Member Countries.

64- **Takes note of** the proposal made by ICIEC on "Business Intelligence Center" and **requests** the ICIEC to further elaborate on the proposal in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions and prepare a detailed concept note and submit it to the 32nd Meeting of the COMCEC Sessional Committee and 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee.

v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

65- **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.

66- **Welcomes** the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Djibouti, and Republic of Iraq as the new members and Kingdom of Thailand as observer to SMIIC, which has increased the number of SMIIC Member States to 33 along with 3 Observers and **invites** the Member States to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

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

68- **Welcomes** the establishment of four new Technical Committees in SMIIC on Halal Management System, Dangerous Goods Transportation Requirements on Transportation, Jewellery and Petroleum and Petroleum Products and the reactivation of the Terminology Committee (15 technical committees in total) and the organization of the 3 Technical Committee Week Meetings in 2017.

69- **Expresses its appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for hosting and SMIIC for supporting the World Halal Summit in Istanbul on 15-17 December 2016 and **calls upon** the Member States to participate in the next World Halal Summit to be held on 23-25 November 2017 in Istanbul under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.

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

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

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

72- **Takes note of** the organization of the Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries, in Istanbul, Turkey on 24-25 April 2017 and the Training Program on Entrepreneurship Development through IT for OIC Countries in Sharjah, on 7-9 August 2017.

73- **Also takes note** of the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA and **calls upon** the private sector of the Member States to actively participate in the following activities:

- The 17th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States, to be held in the State of Kuwait in 2018,
- The 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries to be held in Sudan / Egypt in 2018,
- The Trade Exchange Forum/Exhibition (Sector-wise) to be held in 2018,
- A Training Program on “Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation & Technology Parks” to be held in 2018,
- A Specialized Workshop/Training Program on (Development of SMEs / Skill Development / Food Security/ Textile & Garments/ Renewable Energy and Tourism) to be held in 2018,
- Chambers of Commerce Forum in 2018,
- Conference on Muslim Business-Owners in 2018.

74- **Takes note of** the progress made by the ICCIA and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), Konya Chamber of Commerce and Konya Commodity Exchange to introduce the best practices adopted by Konya for the exchange of commodities in Sudan and to the other interested member countries.

75- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 43rd and 44th Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers and 32nd Session of the COMCEC, **takes note** of the briefing by the ICCIA and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) on setting up of the OIC Arbitration Center in İstanbul, **welcomes** the offer of the TOBB to host a series of task force meetings in 2018 to finalize technical preparations for the establishment of the Center and **requests** ICCIA and TOBB to submit a report to the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and 34th Session of the COMCEC.

Improving Transport and Communications (Agenda Item: 7)

76- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 9th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group held on March 16th, 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey with the theme of “Increasing Broadband Internet Penetration in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

Policy Recommendations for all OIC Member Countries

- Preparing national broadband strategies with the involvement of the all relevant stakeholders,
- Enhancing digital literacy by embedding programs in the formal education system and encouraging non-formal initiatives targeting specific segments of the population,

Policy Recommendations for the OIC Member Countries with Different Stage of Broadband Development

- OIC Member Countries at an advanced stage of broadband development

- Achieving high-speed Internet coverage in rural and isolated areas through regulatory holidays and direct subsidies with the purpose of improving the broadband investment business case,
- Enactment of financial incentives to operators for deploying 4G,

- OIC Member Countries at an intermediate stage of broadband development

- Reducing cost of broadband services through targeted public policy initiatives,
- Lowering the cultural and linguistic barriers through development of local platforms, content, and applications,

- OIC Member Countries at an initial stage of broadband development

- Offering a low-priced broadband service for consumers by state-owned and government subsidized telecommunications operators,
- Offering a low-priced or free broadband service targeted for disadvantaged segments of the population.

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

77- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the Tenth Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group on October 18-19, 2017 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of "Improving Transnational Transport Corridors in OIC Member States: Concepts and Cases", **welcomes** its policy recommendations.

(The policy recommendations of the Meeting are integrated to the Policy Recommendations Document prepared specifically for the Exchange of Views Session of the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Session which is Annexed ..)

78- **Calls upon** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, to actively participate in the Eleventh Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group to be held on March 15th, 2018 with

the theme of “Governance of Transport Corridors in OIC Member States: Challenges, Cases, and Policy Lessons”, as well as its 12th Meeting to be held on October 11th, 2018 with the theme of “The Planning of National Transport Infrastructure in 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.

79- **Commends** the efforts of Turkey in partnership with four other Member Countries for the successful implementation of the project titled “Assessment and Enhancement of Air Cargo Interconnectivity among the OIC Member States: the Air Cargo Co-modality Approach (ACCMA) to Facilitate Intra-OIC Trade” under the third project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2016.

80- **Also commends** the efforts of Cote d’Ivoire for the project titled “Improving the Capacity on Road Safety in Cote d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Mali”, to be finalized in 2017 in partnership with Burkina Faso and Mali under the fourth project call.

81- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Sudan to host the Second Islamic Conference of Transport Ministers in 2018 in Khartoum, Sudan and **calls upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

82- **Takes note of** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat to sensitize the concerned OIC Member States to the need to include the respective national segments along the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor in their national development plans, **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 and **also requests** the General Secretariat to regularly inform the concerned Member Countries about the progress in the realization of the project.

83- **Commending** the efforts of the member countries and the relevant OIC organs/institutions on improving transnational transport corridors, logistics infrastructure and air transport services in the OIC region, **takes note** of the following proposals of Tunisia:

- Developing transnational transport corridors and integrated transport networks in the OIC region, aligning legislations and streamlining procedures as well as joining relevant international/regional agreements.

- Improving logistics infrastructure in the OIC region along with the organization of logistics related trainings and capacity building activities and enhanced coordination in a way to support trade initiatives among the OIC Member States and their integration to the international supply chains.
- Developing air transport services in the OIC region with a view of enhancing intra-OIC tourism.

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

84- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 9th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on February 16th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT): Regulating Accommodation Establishments in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** the COMCEC MFT Guideline as a reference document produced by the Working Group.

(COMCEC MFT Guideline document is attached as Annex)

85- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 10th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group on September 21st, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Risk and Crisis Management in Tourism Sector: Recovery From Crisis in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Establishing a national committee/task force with the responsibility for tourism risk and crisis management, which will be formed by the national tourism authority of each country and include representation from the stakeholders,
- Increasing awareness of resilience and crisis, including the identified stages of a crisis and how to prepare for and respond to each stage,
- Analyze and understand the risks and plan for crisis, both in terms of external crises and risks affecting the tourism industry generally and individual businesses,
- Ensuring market awareness and positive destination perceptions, and developing new markets and products.

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

86- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 11th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group to be held on February 15th, 2018 in Ankara with theme of “Destination Development &

Institutionalization Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” and its 12th Meeting to be held on September 13th, 2018 with the theme of “Destination Marketing Strategies in the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group.

87- **Commends** the efforts of Malaysia in partnership with ten other Member Countries for the successful implementation of the project titled “Short course on strategies in enhancing tourism workforce in community-based tourism within OIC Member Countries” under the third project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2016.

88- **Also commends** the efforts of the Gambia in partnership with Senegal and Mali for the successful implementation of the project titled “Enhancing the capacity of craft producers in OIC Member Countries” under the third project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2016.

89- **Further commends** the efforts of Mozambique, Sudan, Gambia and SESRIC for the following projects being implemented in 2017 under the fourth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

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

90- **Welcomes** the holding of the 10th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition on 6-9 February, 2017 in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

91- **Also welcomes** the offer of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to host 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers on 5-7 February 2018 in Dhaka and **calls upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

92- **Takes note** of the report of the 5th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held on May 4th, 2017 in İstanbul with the theme of “Crisis Communication and Management in Tourism: Recent Challenges and Solutions in OIC Countries” **calls upon** the Member Countries to participate in the 6th Meeting of the Forum to be held on March 8th, 2018 in İstanbul, Turkey with the theme of “Cultural Heritage as a Tool of Sustainable Tourism in the OIC Region.”

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

93- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 9th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group on February 23rd, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a specific legislative framework and road map for reducing food waste in a holistic context including supply chain,
- Promotion of food banks and food distribution networks,
- Conducting cohesive initiatives and campaigns to increase awareness on food waste in supply chain and consumption.

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

94- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 10th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group held on September 28th, 2017 with the theme of “Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Creation and Development of Market Institutions”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Establishing/improving a Farmer Registry System for farmers/farmer organizations to provide customized supports and assistance as well as extension and market information for farmers,
- Developing policies/programs/mechanisms to improve farmers’ timely access to quality inputs (e.g. seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, and other key ingredients) with a view to increasing quality, quantity and marketability of end products,

- Providing need based capacity development support and training to farmers and farmer associations for increasing their access to warehousing and storage capacity,
- Establishing/improving the ingredient and input traceability as well as marketing oriented product standardization and certification to enhance safety and marketability of agricultural products in both domestic and international markets.

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

95- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the 11th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to be held on February 22nd, 2018 in Ankara with theme of “Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Developing Agricultural Market Information Systems” and its 12th Meeting to be held on September 20th, 2018 with the theme of “Analysis of Agri-food Trade Structures to Promote Agri-food Trade Networks among the OIC Member Countries” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group.

96- **Commends** the efforts of Iran, Palestine and Turkey for the successful implementation of the following projects respectively under the third project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2016:

- The Project titled “Rural household empowerment on management of production, supply and market access”; which was implemented by Iran in partnership with Azerbaijan and Turkey,
- The Project titled “Improving small ruminates productivity by using different technologies as silage, feed block and hydroponic” which was implemented by Palestine in partnership with Jordan and Tunisia,
- The Project titled “Establishment of database, network connection and webpages of smallholders/ family farmers’ agricultural cooperatives between the OIC Member States” which was implemented by Turkey in partnership with 24 Member Countries.

97- **Also commends** the efforts of the Gambia and Indonesia for the following projects being implemented in 2017 under the fourth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The Project titled “Reduction of Post-Harvest losses in Cereals for Improve Rural Livelihood” being implemented by Gambia in partnership with Indonesia and Nigeria,
- The Project titled “Improving income of small and medium scale farmers in the OIC Member States through Reducing Losses of Livestock Production” being implemented by Indonesia in partnership with Brunei Darussalam, Arab Republic of Egypt, Malaysia and Sudan.

98- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in 2018 in İstanbul and **calls upon** the Member Countries and the relevant OIC Organs and Institutions including the COMCEC Secretariat to actively participate in this important event.

Alleviating Poverty (Agenda Item:10)

99- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 9th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group on April 6th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Malnutrition in the OIC Member Countries: A Trap for Poverty”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Developing and implementing nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, especially towards women of reproductive age from vulnerable groups,
- Improving infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices,
- Ensuring universal access to healthcare, safe water and sanitation, and launching educational campaigns on infectious diseases to eliminate all forms of undernutrition,
- Providing access to safe and nutritious food for all with community-based initiatives and by forming resilient capacities for food-security.

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

100- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 10th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held on October 5th, 2017 in Ankara, with the theme of “Education of Disadvantaged Children: The Key to Escape from Poverty”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Improving access of poor and disadvantaged children to education through eliminating/reducing school fees and by developing conditional cash transfer and school feeding programmes,
- Enabling access of children in rural and remote areas by establishing new schools or providing free transportation for the children living in these regions,
- Increasing access to inclusive education for children including those having disabilities by formulation of necessary political and legal framework as well as by providing them better assistance in the school environment,
- Prioritizing gender equality and equity in access to education,
- Mobilizing and optimizing more financial resources and human capital towards improving the quality of education.

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

101- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in the 11th Meeting of the Working Group to be held on April 5th, 2018 in Ankara with the theme of “*Quality of Education in the OIC Member Countries*”, as well as its 12th Meeting to be held on October 4th, 2018 with the theme of “*Skills Development and Vocational Education in the OIC Member Countries*” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group.

102- **Commends** the efforts of Indonesia in partnership with Malaysia and Turkey for the successful implementation of the project titled “Developing local initiatives for poverty alleviation through community based sustainable livelihood in OIC Member Countries” under the third project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding in 2016.

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

- The Project titled “Creation of a Road Map for an Integrated Social Service for Housing” implemented by Albania in partnership with Turkey and Azerbaijan,
- The Project titled “Training on Entrepreneurship and Management of Small Business for Women in The Gambia, Senegal and Sierra Leone” implemented by Gambia in partnership with Sierra Leone and Senegal,

- The Project titled “Strengthening Community-Based Sustainable Livelihood for Activating Poor by Opening Marketing Channel through E-Commerce” implemented by Indonesia in partnership with Turkey and Malaysia,
- The Project titled “Professionalization of Childcare in Selected OIC Countries” implemented by Suriname in partnership with Nigeria and Guyana.

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

104- **Commending** the Member Countries, who have contributed to the ISFD recently, **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 and **also requests** the Member Countries to consider making additional commitments on a voluntary basis.

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

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

107- **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).

108- **Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 31st and 32nd Sessions of the COMCEC, **reiterates its request** to the IDB to finalize the allocation of the funding to the SESRIC’s capacity building project for the successful finalization of the OIC Cotton Programme.

ii) OIC-VET Program

109- **Appreciates** the continuous efforts of SESRIC towards initiating and implementing various capacity building programmes and training courses in different fields and areas of interest to the Member States with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of

human resources in these countries and **called upon** SESRIC to mobilize more financial resources towards the programme.

110- **Taking note of** the report presented by SESRIC on OIC-VET Programme and appreciating SESRIC's contribution to the establishment of a Vocational Training Center at the Islamic University in Uganda, **requests** SESRIC and other OIC Institutions to exert efforts in the establishment of a similar capacity within the projected Islamic University in Kabul.

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

iii) Implementation of the SDGs

112- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, **takes note of** the list of SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions compiled by the COMCEC Coordination Office towards the implementation of the SDGs in the Member Countries and **calls upon** the Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to closely follow up and participate in these activities.

113- **Request** the COMCEC Coordination Office to continue compiling the SDGs related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions and submit the list to the annual COMCEC Sessions.

114- **Taking note with appreciation** of the report presented by SESRIC on Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries, **invites** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to 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 34th Follow-up Committee Meeting and 34th COMCEC Session.

Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 11)

115- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 8th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on March 30th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of "Improving Public Debt Management in the OIC Member Countries", **welcomes** its policy recommendations;

- Strengthening/Setting up an independent Public Debt Management Unit with well-defined functions and a dedicated debt management strategy,
- Developing/improving domestic debt market,
- Broadening and diversifying the creditor base,
- Lengthening the average maturity of the public debt,
- Applying macroeconomic risk management methods.

(The Policy recommendations document, including their rationale, is attached as Annex)

116- **Taking note with appreciation** of the convening of the 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group on October 26th, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of “Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments”, **welcomes** its following policy recommendations;

- Improving the Islamic Finance Infrastructure through Developing Necessary Legal/Regulatory Frameworks for its each Component namely, Islamic Banking, Islamic Capital Markets and Takaful towards Creating an Enabling Environment for Islamic Finance,
- Developing a Sound and Effective Governance Framework for National and Strengthening Coordination of Shariah Governance Standards and Policies across Different Jurisdiction,
- Establishing/Developing Islamic Finance Rating Standards,
- Strengthening Human Capital in Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries through Enhanced Financial Literacy and Awareness Programs/Projects by Governments, Universities and Private Sector,
- Facilitating Experience Sharing among the OIC Member Countries in sub-sectors of the Islamic Finance Industry for a Sustainable and Harmonized Growth of the Industry.

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

117- **Calls upon** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in the 10th Meeting of the Financial Cooperation Working Group to be held on March 29th, 2018 with the theme of “Role of

Sukuk in Islamic Capital Markets”, as well as its 11th Meeting to be held on October 25th, 2018 with the theme of “Islamic Fund Management” and **also calls upon** the Member States, who have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group.

118- **Commends** the efforts of the Gambia in partnership with Nigeria and Sierra Leone for the successful implementation of the project titled “Towards an improved institutional framework for Islamic finance” under the third project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding.

i) OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum

119- **Welcomes** the report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum, which has been hosted by Borsa İstanbul on October 31st, 2017 in İstanbul.

120- **Takes note** of the report of the 11th Meeting of the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchange Forum on the various options towards the realization of the highly adaptable web-based gold trading and clearing platform with the ultimate aim of establishing a gold exchange/platform among the volunteering member countries and **requests** the Forum’s Secretariat to finalize the necessary work and report the progress to the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and 34th COMCEC Session.

121- **Invites** the interested member states to actively support Forum’s Task Force to finalize necessary works through accelerating the process of integration of exchanges and harmonization of regulatory frameworks.

122- **Welcomes** the offer of the Borsa Istanbul as the Secretariat of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum, to host the 12th Meeting of the Forum in 2018 in İstanbul and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

123- **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

124- **Welcomes** the report of the 6th Meeting of the Forum, which has been hosted by Capital Markets Board of the Republic of Turkey on October 31st, 2017 in İstanbul.

125- **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, the Session **takes note** of the briefing by the Forum/the Forum's Secretariat on the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform/COMCEC Real Estate Exchange among the interested OIC Member States and **requests** the Forum/the Forum's Secretariat to finalize necessary legal, administrative and technological preparations for establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform before the 34th Session of the COMCEC and submit an interim report to the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the progress achieved.

126- **Calls upon** the interested member states to actively participate in the establishment of the COMCEC Real Estate electronic platform and invites them to identify their authorized bodies and notify them to the Forum's Secretariat before the 34th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting.

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

128- **Welcomes** the offer of the Capital Markets Board of Turkey as the Secretariat of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum, to host the 7th Meeting of the Forum in 2018 in İstanbul and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities

129- **Welcomes** the organization of the 15th Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States on 21-22 September 2017, which was hosted by the Central Bank of Turkey in Bodrum/Turkey and **also welcomes** the offer of Central Bank of Turkey to host its 16th Meeting in 2018.

130- **Further welcomes** the offer of Central Bank of Turkey to host upcoming Meetings annually in Turkey and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings.

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

Exchange of Views on “Improving Transnational Transport Corridors among the OIC Member Countries” (Agenda Item: 12)

132- **Adopts** the COMCEC Ministerial Declaration on Improving Transnational Transport Corridors in the OIC Member States.

(The COMCEC Ministerial Declaration is attached as Annex....)

Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session

133- **Decides** on “Facilitating Trade: Improving Customs Risk Management Systems in the OIC Member States” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 34th Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the COMCEC Trade Working Group in its 11th Meeting, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 34th COMCEC Session.

Date of the 34th Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 13)

134- **Decides** that the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 9-10 May, 2018 in Ankara, Turkey and the 34th Session of the COMCEC will be held on 26-29 November, 2018 in İstanbul, Turkey.

