

Original: English

**REPORT**  
**TWENTY EIGHTH MEETING OF THE**  
**FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE**  
**ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

**(Ankara, 09-10 May 2012)**

1. The Twenty Eighth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held in Ankara on 09-10 May 2012.

2. Representatives of the following Member States of the Committee attended the Meeting:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1- Republic of Turkey           | : (Chairman, Permanent),  |
| 2- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia      | : (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member),                                |
| 3- State of Palestine           | : (Vice Chairman, Permanent Member),                                |
| 4- Republic of Senegal          | : (Vice Chairman, Current Chairman of the 11 <sup>th</sup> Summit), |
| 5- State of Qatar               | : (Vice Chairman, Representing the Arab Region),                    |
| 6- Republic of Kazakhstan       | : (Vice Chairman, Representing the Asian Region),                   |
| 7- Republic of Mali             | : (Vice Chairman, Representing the African Region),                 |
| 8- Islamic Republic of Pakistan | : (Rapporteur),   |
| 9- State of Kuwait              | : (Member of the Previous Bureau),                                  |
| 10- Islamic Republic of Iran    | : (Member of the Previous Bureau),                                  |
| 11- Republic of Cameroon        | : (Member of the Previous Bureau)                                   |

3. Representatives of Malaysia and Republic of Iraq also attended the meeting as observers.

4. In addition, Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have attended the Meeting.

(The list of participants is attached as Annex I.)

## **Opening Session (Agenda Item: 1)**

5. Following recitation from the Holy Qur'an, H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey, inaugurated the Meeting.

6. H.E. Abdullah GÜL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, has sent a message to the Meeting. His message was read out by Erşat HÜR MÜZLÜ, Advisor to the President. In his message, H.E. Abdullah GÜL stressed the rapid change brought by the globalization and emphasized the necessity to improve cooperation, in particular multilateral cooperation among the countries to benefit from the opportunities and to minimize the risks brought by globalization.

7. In this framework, H.E. Abdullah GÜL underlined the unique role of the COMCEC, which has been the economic and commercial cooperation platform among the Member States not only to improve common understanding and cooperation but also to share their development experiences for 28 years. In order to keep the cooperation efforts dynamic and result oriented, H.E. Abdullah GÜL invited all the Member States to increase their support to the cooperation projects and activities developed under the auspices of the COMCEC.

8. H.E. GÜL expressed his satisfaction on the cooperation programmes developed in different economic sectors and the progress achieved towards the finalization of these projects in recent years. He also requested the Member States to increase their support and participate in the cooperation programs.

9. H.E. Abdullah GÜL concluded his message with best wishes for the success of the Meeting.

(A copy of the text of the Message of H.E. President Abdullah GÜL is attached as Annex II.)

10. Following the message of H.E. President GÜL, H.E. Dr. Cevdet YILMAZ addressed the meeting. In his statement, H.E. YILMAZ highlighted the recent world economic developments, evaluated the current progress in economic and commercial cooperation, and stressed necessary steps to be taken to move cooperation to desired levels.

11. Regarding the current world economic developments, H.E. Cevdet YILMAZ underlined that the fragile economic outlook of the developed economies may negatively affect Member States' external trade. To mitigate its adverse effects, H.E. YILMAZ stressed the necessity for the Member States to put more emphasis on the cooperation projects and programs under the auspices of COMCEC which aim to increase intra-OIC trade, particularly the TPS-OIC, and implement them on a priority basis.

12. H.E. YILMAZ touched upon the recent developments and activities in priority sectors and stressed the importance of member states' participation and ownership for achieving successful results. He also underlined the vital role of private sector in increasing trade and sustaining economic development and requested that cooperation efforts take into consideration the needs of the private sector. In this regard, H.E. YILMAZ emphasized the importance of this year's exchange of views theme and invited the Member States to actively participate in the exchange of views session to share experiences and make recommendations for the sustainability and competitiveness of the SMEs in the Member States.

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

13. Message of H.E. Professor Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of OIC, was read out by H.E. Ambassador Hameed OPELOYERU, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC. In his message to the Meeting, H.E. Prof. İHSANOĞLU emphasized the importance of creating workable implementation modalities for all OIC programmes, including the critical issue of mobilization of funds for its various development and cooperation projects, particularly in such critical sectors as agriculture, rural development and the provision of social safety nets.

14. He also stressed on the crucial role of deepening of national ownership of OIC projects and the elaboration of bankable projects so as to generate greater confidence participation and collaboration of international donors and regional partners.

15. The Secretary General expressed his appreciation to the President, Government, and People of the Republic of Turkey for their constant support to the activities of the OIC in general and the COMCEC in particular.

(A copy of the text of the message of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU is attached as Annex IV.)

16. The Meeting was then addressed by the Heads of Delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, State of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Mali. They expressed their thanks and appreciation to the President of the Republic of Turkey and the Government and people of Turkey for their continued support to economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States as well as for the warm welcome accorded and the excellent arrangements made at the Meeting. The delegates expressed their views regarding the importance of enhancing economic and commercial cooperation carried out under the umbrella of the COMCEC in order to mitigate the adverse effects of the global economic crisis and for development.

## **Working Sessions**

17. The working sessions of the Meeting were chaired by H.E. Mehmet CEYLAN, Deputy Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey and H.E. Ahmet YAMAN, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Development of the Republic of Turkey.

18. The agenda of the Meeting was unanimously adopted by the Committee.

(A copy of the Agenda is attached as Annex V.)

## **Review of the Implementation of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action (TYPOA) and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 2)**

### ***i) OIC Background Report:***

19. The Committee **took note** of the Background Report submitted by the OIC General Secretariat on the implementation of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action.

20. The Committee reiterated its **request** to the OIC General Secretariat to focus on the general evaluation of the implementation of the TYPOA and OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation in its Review Reports.

21. The Committee also **requested** OIC Institutions to focus on the evaluation of their activities in their reports submitted to the COMCEC Sessions and Follow up Committee Meetings.

22. The Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC Institutions to prepare a list of activities to be organized for the upcoming year and submit it to the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

(The report by the OIC General Secretariat on the Review of the Implementation of the TYPOA, and OIC Plan of Action is attached as Annex VI.)

### ***ii) OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia***

23. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of the Workshop on “Country Partnership Models with Central Asia” on 22-23 February, 2012 in Ankara, Turkey by the COMCEC Coordination Office and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA).

24. The Committee **took note with appreciation** of the recommendations of the Workshop on “Country Partnership Models with Central Asia” and **requested** the

Executive Committee to consider these recommendations in planning its future activities.

(The report of the Workshop is attached as Annex VII.)

*iii) Report of the Sessional Committee:*

25. The Committee **took note of** the report of the Sessional Committee and **welcomed** the positive developments regarding the implementation of the projects on the agenda of the Sessional Committee.

26. The Committee **also took note of** the recommendations of the Istanbul Conference on "Needs Assessment of the OIC Member States in the Field of Competition Law and Policy" held on 21-22 November 2011, in Istanbul, Turkey, as a kick-off activity for the Sessional Committee Project, entitled "Technical Cooperation in the Area of Competition Law and Policy".

27. The Committee **requested** the interested Member States to actively participate in the implementation process of the projects on the agenda of the COMCEC.

(The report of the 20<sup>th</sup> Sessional Committee Meeting is attached as Annex VIII.)

**Cooperation in the Area of Trade (Agenda Item: 3)**

*i) TPS-OIC*

28. The Committee **welcomed** the ratification of the Rules of Origin by the State of Palestine; the ratification of the Framework Agreement by the Republic of Iraq; and the submission of concession lists by the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Syrian Arab Republic and also **welcomed** the announcement of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding its ratification of the TPSOIC Rules of Origin and submission of the concession list.

29. The Committee **urged** the Member States which have ratified PRETAS to notify the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat, of their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products and the MFN applied rate applicable on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003.

30. The Committee also **urged** the Member States which have ratified the Rules of Origin to complete the necessary internal legislative and administrative measures, which include printing TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin and conveying specimen impressions of stamps to the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat.

31. The Committee **called on** the Member States that 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.

32. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of the seminar on the TPS-OIC for the benefit of the Member States of the League of Arab States, by the State of Kuwait in collaboration with the ICDT, to be held in Kuwait on 14-15 May 2012.

33. The Committee **requested** the relevant OIC Institutions to further their efforts with a view to raising the awareness of Member Countries, as well as the regional trading blocs comprising the member countries, on TPS-OIC.

*ii) Islamic Trade Fairs*

34. The Committee **welcomed** the offers of the following Member States to organize upcoming trade fairs:

- United Arab Emirates (1<sup>st</sup> OIC Halal Food Expo-10-12 December 2012, Sharjah)
- Kingdom of Morocco (1<sup>st</sup> OIC Handicraft Exhibition-11-14 April 2013, Casablanca)
- The Islamic Republic of Iran (14<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fair, 2013, Tehran)
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (1<sup>st</sup> Fair on Furniture, Decoration and Household Electrical Appliances, 12-17 May 2013, Medina)

35. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 17<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fair in 2019.

36. The Committee **called upon** all the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in these fairs.

37. The Committee **requested** ICDT to submit regular progress reports on the trade and tourism fairs of the OIC Member States and the other specialized exhibitions which would include the evaluation of these fairs to the COMCEC Sessions.

38. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey to share its experiences in organizing international fairs with the interested Member States within the framework of its Chamber Academy Program.

*iii) Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade*

39. The Committee **took note** of the follow-up report of the Executive Programme of the Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade.

40. The Committee **requested** the OIC Institutions to increase their efforts for the implementation of projects and programmes in the Executive Programme and **called upon** the Member States to lend the necessary support to the OIC Institutions for the implementation of the Program.

41. The Committee **requested** the Member States to keep providing the ICDT with the most up-to-date data relating to trade statistics.

(The Follow-up Report of the Executive Program of the Road Map is attached as Annex IX.)

*iv) WTO Related Technical Assistance*

42. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey, IDB and ICDT for organizing capacity building programmes on WTO Related Issues for the Member States whose accession to the WTO is underway.

43. The Committee **called on** IDB and ICDT to synergize their efforts to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States so as to contribute to their accession to the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis.

44. The Committee **further called on** IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues.

*v) Trade Financing Activities*

45. The Committee **noted** with appreciation the role being played by the ITFC in enhancing and promoting intra-OIC Trade.

46. The Committee **also noted** the declaration of ITFC of offering competitive terms for its trade operations, including the lines of financing.

47. The Committee **requested** the ICIEC to expand its investment insurance programs in the Member and Observer States with a view to increasing intra-OIC investment flows.

48. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host a conference on “Cooperation and Collaboration among Export Credit Agencies of OIC Member States” in Tehran.

(The Report by ITFC on Trade Promotion Activities is attached as Annex X.)

*vi) Institutionalization of SMIIC*

49. The Committee **welcomed** the increasing visibility of SMIIC in its field of competence and **requested** member states to actively participate in its activities.

50. The Committee **took note of** the reports of the Third General Assembly and Fourth Board of Directors Meetings of SMIIC held on 3-5 May 2012 in İstanbul, Turkey.

51. The Committee **welcomed** the finalization of SMIIC Standards and requested its Members to take necessary actions in their respective countries.

52. The Committee **welcomed** the Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Gambia, Republic of Gabon and Republic of Senegal as new members of the SMIIC.

53. The Committee **requested** the SMIIC to organize capacity building programmes in the area of standards in cooperation with Member States and International Organizations.

54. The Committee **requested** the Member States which have not done so far, to join SMIIC to benefit from the services to be provided by SMIIC.

(The report by SMIIC on its activities is attached as Annex XI.)

*vii) Arbitration Mechanism*

55. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to convey their views on the Study on “Relevance of Establishment of an Arbitration Mechanism” circulated by the OIC General Secretariat by August 2012.

**Cooperation in the Priority Sectors (Agenda Item 4)**

*i) Agriculture*

56. The Committee **took note of** the report of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Task Force on Agriculture held on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and **requested** the OIC General Secretariat to circulate the Draft Framework for Cooperation in Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security to OIC Member States for their views and comments.

57. The Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office, in collaboration with the SESRIC and IDB, to finalize the draft Framework reflecting prospective



comments and views of the member states and submit it to the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC for its adoption.

58. **Recalling** the relevant decisions of the 6<sup>th</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security, Agriculture and Rural Development held in 2011, the Committee **appealed** to the Member States to share their knowledge and best practices in the area of agriculture with the interested member states with a view to enhance their cooperation and solidarity in this field.

59. The Meeting **welcomed** the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan to establish an OIC Food Security Office in Kazakhstan and **requested** thorough study of the mandate and functions of the Office, its financial aspects and its operation in coordination with other regional bodies and centres as well as with Member States and OIC Institutions.

60. The Committee **welcomed** the initiative of the SESRIC for organizing capacity building programmes in the area of agriculture and food security in collaboration with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey and requested the Member States which have not done so to respond to the questionnaire of these programmes.

(The Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Task Force on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security is attached as Annex XII.)

## *ii) Tourism*

61. The Committee **took note** of the Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on “Private Sector Cooperation for Development of Tourism within OIC” held on 9-10 December 2011 in İzmir, Turkey.

62. The Committee **welcomed** the establishment of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum which would regularly bring together the private sector representatives of the OIC Member Countries.

63. The Committee **urged** Members of the Coordination Committee on Tourism to actively participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Committee to be held on 12-13 June 2012, in Tehran.

64. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum in December 2012 in İzmir and **urged** the Member States to encourage their private sector representatives in tourism sector to actively participate in this event.

65. The Committee **also welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Sudan to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Minister (ICTM) in Khartoum in 2012, and the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism Fair of the OIC Members on 20-23 December 2012 in Cairo.

66. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to share its experiences in medical tourism with the other Member States.

(The Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Private Sector Cooperation for Enhancing Intra-OIC Tourism is attached as Annex XIII.)

### *iii) Transportation*

67. The Committee **requested** the COMCEC Coordination Office to finalize its study on the working modality of Transport Working Group and submit it to the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

68. The Committee **called on** the Member States and OIC Institutions to give their full support to the implementation of the İzmir Document by developing cooperation projects in line with the spirit of the said document.

69. The Committee **requested** the Member States to participate in the Seminar and exhibition on “Ship-building” to be organized by the IUT on 31<sup>st</sup> August-1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## **Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 5)**

### *i) Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges*

70. The Committee **took note of** the progress achieved within the context of the OIC Stock Exchanges Forum and **supported** the launch of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index in the last week of June 2012.

71. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Sixth Meeting of the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum on 24-25 September 2012 in İstanbul and **called upon** the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

72. The committee **welcomed** the offer of the SESRIC to organize two training courses for the staff of Stock Exchanges in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan in 2012 and **requested** SESRIC to organize similar training programs for the other members of the OIC.

*ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies*

73. The Committee **welcomed** the establishment of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum and called on the Member States to extend their support to the activities of the Forum.

74. The Committee also **welcomed** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on 24-25 September 2012 in İstanbul and **urged** Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

*iii) Cooperation among the Central Banks*

75. The Committee **took note of** the recommendations of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities held on 14-16 November 2011 in Malaysia.

76. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of the 12th Meeting of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities by the Central Bank of Turkey in collaboration with SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of these meetings, on 14-15 May 2012 in İstanbul and **called upon** member countries to actively participate in this Meeting.

77. The Committee **also welcomed** the training and capacity building programs organized by the Central Bank of Turkey and SESRIC within the framework of the cooperation among the Member States' Central Banks and Monetary Authorities in different aspects of cooperation and **called upon** the other member states to join these efforts.

(The Final Communiqué of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is attached as Annex XIV.)

**Private Sector Cooperation (Agenda Item: 6)**

78. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of Chamber Academy Programs, by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), in collaboration with the IDB/ITFC and ICCIA and **called on** the private sector representatives of the member states to actively participate in the upcoming program. The Committee **appealed** to the concerned member states to organize similar capacity building activities.

79. The Committee **called on** the ICCIA to increase its capacity building programmes, professional business to business (B2B) and business to government events and its studies to enhance commercial and investment transactions among the OIC Member States.

80. The Committee **took note** of the holding of Training Programme and Workshop by the ICCIA for the private sector in the areas of value addition, microfinance, and entrepreneurship development in SMEs.

81. The Committee **invited** the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the 15<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting to be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2013.

(Report by ICCIA on the activities of the Chamber is attached as Annex XV.)

- *Exchange of Views on `Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the Member States`*

82. The Committee **welcomed** the organization of the workshop on “Enhancing the Competitiveness of the SMEs in the OIC Member States”, by SESRIC, in collaboration with ICD, the SMEs Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB), and SMECorp of Malaysia, on 12-14 June 2012, in Ankara, Turkey and **requested** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

83. The Committee **requested** the Member States to send their country reports on SMEs to the COMCEC Coordination Office by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to be distributed at the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

84. The Committee **called upon** the government agencies, chambers, business associations and universities of the Member States to increase their support to the SMEs for ensuring their sustainability and competitiveness.

85. The Committee **invited** the Member States, wishing to share their best practices and experiences, to communicate their relevant technical cooperation proposals to the COMCEC Coordination Office to be submitted to the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

86. The Committee **welcomed** the offer of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) of Turkey to organize expert exchange and capacity building programmes in 2013.

- *Possible Themes for the Exchange of Views Session of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC*

87. The Committee **took note** of the following possible themes for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC:

Theme 1: The role of PPP (Public Private Partnership) in tourism sector development in the Member States

Theme 2: Increasing FDI Flows to the OIC Member States

Theme 3: Promoting Islamic Financial Services in the OIC Countries

88. The Committee **requested** the SESRIC to circulate a questionnaire to the Member States to explore their views on the abovementioned themes and report them to the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

**Poverty Alleviation (Agenda Item: 7)**

*i) ISFD and SPDA*

89. The Committee **welcomed** the IDB's efforts towards realization of the objectives of ISFD and SPDA.

90. The Committee **reiterated** its request to the Member Countries who have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments so as to enable it to finance more projects in the Member States and Muslim Communities and Minorities.

91. The Committee **urged** the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to seek mobilization of additional resources from different financing institutions to increase the funds for the Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA).

92. The Committee **called upon** the Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to provide the necessary assistance to the Republic of Mali to address its ongoing food crisis.

(Report of IDB on Implementation Status of ISFD and SPDA is attached as Annex XVI.)

*ii) OIC Cotton Programme*

93. The Committee **requested** the IDB Group to finalize its consideration of the projects which have already been submitted for financial support.

94. The Committee **further requested** the IDB Group to submit regular progress reports to COMCEC Meetings on the status of the projects under consideration for funding.

95. **Recalling** the relevant resolution of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the Committee **welcomed** the proposal to organize an investment forum for the OIC Cotton Programme projects in December 2012.

96. The Committee **took note** of the Cotton Training Programmes of SESRIC and **urged** the Cotton Research Centers of Excellence to enhance their cooperation with SESRIC in implementing these programmes.

*iv) OIC-VET Programme*

97. The Committee **welcomed the efforts** of SESRIC for the implementation of OIC-VET Programme, and **requested** the SESRIC and IDB to further their efforts towards the implementation of the planned projects under the OIC-VET programme and report their outcomes to the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

98. The Committee **called upon** the Member States to participate and support the ISMEK Master Trainer Program, the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network and OIC International Students Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP).

99. The Committee **took note** of the efforts of SESRIC and IDB towards the preparation of the “Strategic Framework for Disaster Risk Management in the OIC Member Countries” and requested them to report the progress to the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

**Draft Agenda of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 8)**

100. The Committee **decided** to submit the Draft Agenda to the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of COMCEC.

(A copy of the Draft Agenda of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex XVII.)

**Any Other Business**

101. The Committee **requested** the IDB Group/ICIEC to finalize its study on intra-OIC investment flows that comprises information on investment environments and investment governing laws and regulations in the OIC Member States and submit it to the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

**Thanks and appreciation**

102. The Committee **thanked and appreciated** the efforts of the Republic of Turkey as the host country, Member States, OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, IDB Group, SESRIC, ICDT, ICCIA, IUT, SMIIC and all other cooperating partners that have carried out the activities stated in the "Working Sessions" section of this Report.

**Closing Session**

103. At its Closing Session chaired by H.E. Ahmet YAMAN, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Development of the Republic of Turkey, the Committee adopted its Report together with its Annexes. The Committee requested the

COMCEC Coordination Office to circulate the Report among Member States, and to submit it to the Twenty Eighth Session of the COMCEC.

104. The Head of Delegation of the State of Palestine proposed to send a message of thanks to H.E. Abdullah GÜL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC for his valuable message sent to the Meeting.

105. H.E. Ambassador Hameed OPELOYERU, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC read out the message of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of the OIC. In his message, H.E. Prof. İHSANOĞLU expressed his most profound appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the traditional warm and brotherly hospitality accorded to all delegations at this Meeting. H.E. the Secretary General stated that this Meeting with its various recommendations will deepen the ownership of COMCEC programmes among the Member States.

106. The Head of Delegation of the Republic of Mali made a statement on behalf of the delegates. He expressed his profound gratitude to the Government and people of Turkey for the warm welcome and excellent hospitality extended to the delegates during their stay in Ankara. He also thanked the Chairman of the Meeting, and all the supporting staff for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

107. In his closing statement, H.E. Ahmet YAMAN highlighted the recent progress made in cooperation areas of the COMCEC and expressed his desire to further this cooperation through commensurate actions. H.E. YAMAN thanked all the participants, including Member States and OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions and support. Finally, H.E. YAMAN wished the delegates a safe journey home.

(A copy of the text of the Closing Statement by H.E. Ahmet YAMAN is attached as Annex XVIII.)

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