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**OIC/CFM-40/2013/ECO/RES/FINAL**

**RESOLUTION**  
**ON**  
**ECONOMIC ISSUES**

**THE 40<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF  
THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (CFM)**

*(Session of Dialogue of Civilizations, Factor for Peace and Sustainable Development)*

**CONAKRY, REPUBLIC OF GUINEA  
09 – 11 DECEMBER 2013  
(06 – 08 SAFAR 1435 H)**

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**RESOLUTION No. 1/40-E**  
**ON**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC TEN YEAR PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

*The Fortieth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Dialogue of Civilizations, Factor for Peace and Sustainable Development), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 9-11 December 2013 (06-08 Safar, 1435 H)*

Considering relevant provisions on intra-OIC cooperation in the socio-economic domain,

Taking cognizance of Final Communiqué of 12<sup>th</sup> Session of Islamic Summit (Session of New Challenges and Expanding Opportunities), particularly the provision on Economic Affairs, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 6-7 February 2013,

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,

Recalling also Ten Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005, particularly its strong commitment to accelerate economic cooperation among OIC Member States as well as effective collaboration with regional and international organizations,

Reaffirming Resolutions on Economic Issues by 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Commending the various initiatives launched by OIC Member States towards strengthening economic cooperation among the OIC member states,

Also commending the activities of the various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIC,

Further commending the Secretary General's efforts which have greatly facilitated the follow-up of the implementation of various OIC resolutions,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

**A. Intra-OIC Trade**

Hailing the entry into force of the instruments of Trade Preferential System of OIC (TPS-OIC),

Expressing satisfaction at the submission of list of products (schedules of concessions) by OIC Member States within the framework of PRETAS,

Also expressing satisfaction at the steady increase in the level of intra-OIC trade, which has reached to 18.21% in 2012,

Commending the activities of ICDT in the area of trade promotion and facilitation, including special capacity building programmes for Member States,

Also commending the work of Consultative Group on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade,

Noting the outcome of the 13<sup>th</sup> Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, on 24-26 April 2011,

Taking note of the various interventions of the IDB Group in the area of trade financing, which cumulatively amounted to US\$ 40 billion in 2011,

Commending the activities of the Steering and Project Committees on the OIC Cotton Action Plan,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Sixth Steering Committee Meeting on the OIC Cotton Action Plan in Ankara on 3 April 2013,

Taking note of the Report and Recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting on the OIC Cotton Action Plan,

Expressing appreciation to the SESRIC for organizing 5 training courses on agronomy and fiber technology of cotton in a number of OIC countries, namely Uganda, Mozambique, Togo, and Mali since 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM, within the framework of its capacity building programmes,

1. **Calls on** Member States, which have not done so, to complete all necessary procedures for the take-off of the Trade Preferential System of the OIC (TPS-OIC);
2. **Urge** Member States, which have not done so, to expedite ratification of Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System of the OIC, PRETAS and Rules of Origin and to submit their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products (schedules of concessions);
3. **Invites** Member States to support the on-going consultations of the Secretary General with such regional economic blocs as WAEMU, ECO, and ECOWAS, towards addressing the peculiar situation of Member States belonging to other Free Trade Areas;
4. **Requests** the Consultative Group to carry out its work with the active participation of the OIC Institutions in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and in accordance with its mandate;
5. **Invites** all OIC Member States to participate actively in the 14<sup>th</sup> Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries to be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 28 October 1 November 2013;

6. **Urges** the member states to re-package their respective projects as approved under the OIC Cotton Action Plan and to show considerable interest in the new projects being identified to enhance cooperation in this vital economic sector;
7. **Calls upon** the SESRIC, IDB Group and the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute to organize a Meeting in the second half of 2013, with the participation of the Cotton Centers of Excellence, for the discussion of various priority areas of the OIC Cotton Action Plan, such as the creation of a Cotton Gene Bank; exchanging research material on combating diseases and insects; creation a Databank on cotton for easy access to information and statistics; development of an exchange system for cotton marketing and etc.

## **B. Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA)**

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action with regard to promoting activities aimed at achieving economic and social development in African OIC member states,

Recalling the Resolution No.4/39-E of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Noting that a total amount of US\$ 5.01 billion has been extended by the IDB Group under the Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA), in support of 480 projects in African OIC member states,

Bearing in mind the need to sustain the momentum and laudable achievements realized under SPDA during 2008-2012,

Aware of the on-going efforts of the IDB Group, in consultation with OIC member states, to elaborate a more robust and diversified successor programme to SPDA,

Taking note of the outcome of the Working Session of the Governors of IDB from African Countries on the Implementation of SPDA, which was held on the sidelines of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of IDB held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 18-22 May 2013, particularly the need for elaboration of SPDA 2 and consultations with concerned member states on their priorities,

Also commending the current demarches of the IDB on expansion of its Youth Employment Scheme (YES) to African OIC member states, in line with the recommendation of the Second Conference of OIC Labour Ministers held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 23-26 April 2013,

1. **Urges** concerned OIC member states to actively participate in the on-going efforts to elaborate successor programme to SPDA;

2. **Calls on** all donor and development institutions in OIC member states as well as international partners to support, and contribute to, elaboration and eventual implementation of successor programme.

### **C. Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)**

Reaffirming Resolution No. 4/39-E on OIC Special Development Programmes adopted by 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Expressing satisfaction with the fact that the total interventions for poverty alleviation projects, under the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), have attained US\$ 1.64 billion,

Recalling its earlier request to OIC Member States to increase, and redeem, their commitments to ISFD,

Welcoming the initiative of the ISFD to set-up three new programmes, namely Basic Education for the Poor (BEP), Renewable Energy for the Poor (REP), and Social Business Initiative (SBI),

1. **Calls on** member states to give priority to ISFD projects in their national development programmes;
2. **Urges** member states to pay up their subscribed contributions to the Fund to expand its activities towards alleviating poverty and improving social services and infrastructures as well as to develop its second Strategy (2013-2015) in line with the current overarching themes in the member states of poverty alleviation and special programmes such as youth employment.

### **D. Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF)**

Expressing satisfaction with the fact that the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) has funded 2349 projects, since its establishment, for the purpose of uplifting educational, cultural and social standards in the Muslim World,

Welcoming the initiative of the ISF to expand and develop its activities in consonance with OIC vision and mission based on effective socio-economic collaboration, and to reactivate its investment Committee to mobilize financial resources and explore investments capable of generating big returns,

1. **Calls on** member states, which have not done so, to generously donate to the capital of the Waqf with the aim to reach the agreed ceiling for supporting the financial base of the ISF and diversify its sources of income as well as providing stable revenue for the budget of the Fund to enable it to fulfill its mandate;
2. **Also calls on** member states to respond favorably to the request of allocating waqf lands for construction of projects that would increase revenue of the Fund;

3. **Urges** the Fund's Administration to reactivate the investment Committee of the Fund to mobilize financial resources and explore investments capable of generating big returns particularly for financing the SMEs.

#### **E. Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project**

Recalling the relevant Resolution No. 5/39-E of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Mindful of the on-going alliance between OIC and African Union/NEPAD with regard to the implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project,

Taking note of the completion of the pre-feasibility studies on the missing links on the AU/NEPAD Dakar-Djibouti corridor, and the need to move to the next implementation stages,

Underlining the importance of strengthening the transit potentials of the OIC land-locked member states,

Taking into account the offer by the United Nations' Office for South-South Cooperation to extend necessary technical and consultancy support to needy project-owners among OIC member states during the implementation phase of the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project,

1. **Calls on** member states to give priority to this project in their bilateral development assistance to the respective participating countries;
2. **Also Calls on** the participating countries to include these projects in their national development plans and to submit the relevant documents on their national segments on the railway line to facilitate the mobilization of necessary support by the OIC and its development partners;
3. **Requests** the General Secretariat to convene the second stakeholders meeting on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project to assess the progress so far made on the Project.

#### **F. Role of Private Sector**

Recalling the relevant provisions of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action on the need for an increased role for the Private Sector in OIC Member States,

Considering the findings of the OIC Task Force on SME, which held its 6<sup>th</sup> and Final Meeting in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, on 15-17 August 2008, particularly its Strategic Plan for the Promotion and Development of SME sector in OIC Member States,

Noting the outcome of the 14<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, on 24-26 April 2011,

Considering the outcome of the Consultative Meeting on the proposed OIC Agro-Food Industries Association held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013,

Taking into account the 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. **Welcomes** the proposal to create an OIC Network of Business and Technology Incubators and Database of Angel Investors in OIC Member States;
2. **Takes note** of the efforts to enhance OIC cooperation in the field of Agro-Food industries;
3. **Requests** the Secretary General to liaise with all stakeholders on the ways and means of implementing the recommendations of the OIC Task Force on SMEs;
4. **Requests** the Islamic Development Bank to finalize a feasibility report concerning the possibility of establishment of a special fund of SMEs under the IDB and **Calls** upon the other OIC economic institutions and bodies to make suggestions and provide their vision on implementing this initiative;
5. **Invites** all OIC Member States to participate actively in the 15<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting to be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 28 – 30 October 2013;
6. **Also Invites** all OIC Member States to participate actively in all OIC activities involving the Private Sector.

**G. General Provision:**

1. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to F to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

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**RESOLUTION No. 2/40-E**  
**ON**  
**ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE**  
**COMCEC**

*The Fortieth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Dialogue of Civilizations, Factor for Peace and Sustainable Development), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 9-11 December 2013 (06-08 Safar, 1435H)*

Recalling the new vision document of the COMCEC entitled “ Making Cooperation Work: the COMCEC Strategy for Building an Interdependent Islamic World” adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Extra-ordinary Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 August 2012 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Taking cognizance of Final Communiqué of 12<sup>th</sup> Session of Islamic Summit (Session of New Challenges and Expanding Opportunities), particularly the provision on Economic Affairs, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 6-7 February 2013,

Recalling also Ten Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005, particularly its strong commitment to accelerate economic cooperation among OIC Member States as well as effective collaboration with regional and international organizations,

Reaffirming Resolutions on Economic Issues by 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the COMCEC, in particular thereof, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC,

Commending the activities of the COMCEC Coordination Office and 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. **Welcomes** the resolutions of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC No. OIC/COMCEC/29-13/RES, and **requests** all the Member States to further their efforts for the implementation of the COMCEC’s resolutions as well as its programmes and projects; (Resolutions of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex)

2. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report thereon to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

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**RESOLUTION No. 3/40-E**  
**ON**  
**ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE OTHER MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES IN THE**  
**ECONOMIC SECTOR**

*The Fortieth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Dialogue of Civilizations, Factor for Peace and Sustainable Development), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 9-11 December 2013 (06-08 Safar, 1435H)*

Considering relevant provisions of the Charter of Organization of Islamic Cooperation on intra-OIC cooperation in the socio-economic domain,

Taking cognizance of Final Communiqué of 12<sup>th</sup> Session of Islamic Summit (Session of New Challenges and Expanding Opportunities), particularly the provision on Economic Affairs, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 6-7 February 2013,

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,

Recalling also the Ten Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005, particularly its strong commitment to accelerate economic cooperation among OIC Member States as well as effective collaboration with regional and international organizations,

Reaffirming Resolutions on Economic Issues by 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Commending the various initiatives launched by OIC Member States towards strengthening economic cooperation among the OIC member states,

Also commending the activities of the various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIC,

Further commending the Secretary General's efforts which have greatly facilitated the follow-up of the implementation of various OIC resolutions,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

**A. Sixth Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development**

Reaffirming the Resolution on Promoting Food Security and Agricultural Development in OIC member states adopted by the Fifth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan, from 26 to 28 October 2010,

Also reaffirming the Resolution on Promoting Food Security and Agricultural Development in OIC member states adopted by the Sixth OIC Ministerial Conferences on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 3-6 October 2011,

Recalling the Resolution No.3/39-E of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012, with particular reference to the establishment of OIC Food Security institution in Kazakhstan,

Expressing its grave concern about the unremitting spate of food insecurity and its negative socio-economic consequences in OIC member states arising from rising cost of food, low agricultural productivity and investments, low capacity utilization, and natural disaster,

Commending the Government of Turkey, the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and IDB for their robust contributions to the successful conclusion of the training of trainers session for agricultural extension experts in Izmir, Turkey on 21-24 May 2013,

Welcoming the current demarches of the General Secretariat to create a mechanism for private-public participation among the agro-food stakeholders in OIC member states as a means of boosting agri-business and investments in the food sub-sector,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Sixth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 3-6 October 2011,

Taking note of the Report of the Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting to finalize the constituent instrument of the OIC Food Security institution in Kazakhstan, which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 11-13 June 2013,

Recalling its earlier resolution accepting the offer of the Republic of Djibouti to host a Center for OIC Food Security Reserve for East, Central and Southern Africa and Horn of Africa in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti,

Welcoming the offer by the Government of the Republic of Senegal to host the Seventh OIC Ministerial Conferences on Food Security and Agricultural Development in Dakar, Senegal, on 14-16 November 2013,

1. **Endorses** the Resolution on Promoting Food Security and Agricultural Development in OIC member states adopted by the Sixth OIC Ministerial Conferences on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Istanbul, Turkey on 3-6 October 2011, and **urges** all member states and OIC institutions to effectively implement it;
2. **Reiterates** its earlier call on OIC member states and their Private Sector Organisations to accord priority to agricultural investment, capacity building and technology transfer in needy OIC member states;

3. **Urges** all member states to actively participate in the Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development scheduled for Dakar, Senegal, on 14-16 November 2013;

*Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security:*

4. **Approves** the Draft Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security, which was finalized by the Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 11-13 June 2013. To this end, **invites** all OIC member states to sign and ratify the Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security at its earliest convenience in order to enable early take-off of the Organisation;
5. **Commends** the Governments of Kazakhstan for its valuable support for this initiative aimed at improving intra-OIC collaboration in the agricultural sector as well as the effective implementation of OIC joint action in this domain.

**B. Seventh Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers**

Recalling the Ten Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005, particularly its strong commitment to accelerate economic cooperation among OIC Member States as well as effective collaboration with regional and international organizations,

Further recalling relevant resolutions made by the previous CFM sessions particularly Resolution No. OIC/39-CFM/ECO/Res. on Economic Affairs by 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti on 15-17 November 2012,

Considering the provisions of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in Tourism Sector among the OIC Member States,

Taking cognizance of the Resolution of the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of Tourism Ministers held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 28-30 November 2010,

Taking into consideration the outcome of the Donors' Conference on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa" held in Dakar, Senegal on 27-28 May 2011, as well as the recommendations of the Steering Committee meeting of the Project held in Casablanca, Morocco on 7-8 February 2012,

Welcoming the outcome of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordination Committee on Tourism, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 12-13 June 2012,

Further welcoming the outcome of the First OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held in Turkey on 7-8 December 2012,

Also welcoming the outcome of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Health Tourism in the Islamic Countries, held in Mashhad, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 18-19 December 2012,

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

1. **Welcomes** the offer by the Republic of The Gambia to host the 8<sup>th</sup> session of Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) in Banjul, The Gambia on 4-6 December 2013, and calls upon members states to attend the Conference;
2. **Takes note** of the request by the Republic of Niger and Malaysia to be considered for hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> session of ICTM;
3. **Invites** the OIC, through its special development peogrammes, namely the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), the Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA) and the Programme for Capacity Building and the Assistance to OIC Member States, to provide financial support to the Regional Project on Development of Tourism in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa, as well as to projects initiated by the beneficiary states in order to establish tourism satellite accounts to better monitor this sector;
4. **Urges** the beneficiary states to submit urgent requests to bilateral and multilateral donors to mobilize financial resources to complement the national efforts;
5. **Encourages** OIC Member States to continue facilitating movement of tourists among them by easing visa procedures for the citizens of Member States;
6. **Underscores** the necessity for institutional capacity building to ensure better regional coordination for the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa;
7. **Invites** concerned member states to elaborate bankable projects to ensure funding and implementation of the project;
8. **Also invites** IDB to support the capacity building activities of Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Guinea which is entrusted with the task of coordination of the Programme including consultancy services for the purpose of financing and implementation of the programme.

### **C. Second OIC Conference on Labour, Employment and Social Protection**

Recalling the Resolution No. 2/39-E on Entrepreneurship, Employment and Labour Issues adopted by the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM, held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Considering the outcome of the Second Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM), held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 23-26 April 2013,

Commending the activities of the various OIC Institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group and ICCIA,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the Second Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers in Baku and welcoming the offer of the Republic of Indonesia to host the Third Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers in 2015,

1. **Endorses** the Resolution on the Cooperation Labour, Employment and Social Protection among the OIC member states, adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers;
2. **Urges** the Member States to submit inputs for the compilation of an action plan that will identify various short, medium and long term programmes and activities for the implementation of the Resolution and the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICLM;
3. **Calls upon** the Member States to designate their respective national focal points on labour and submit their contact addresses to the General Secretariat for easy communication and coordination for the successful implementation of the outcomes of the ICLM;
4. **Commends** the Islamic Development Bank for extending its Youth Employment Support (YES) programme to African member states and urges its inclusion in the projected elaboration of the second phase of the Special Programme for the Development of Africa.

**D. General Provision:**

1. **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 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

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**RESOLUTION No. 4/40-E**  
**ON**  
**REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES**

*The Fortieth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Dialogue of Civilizations, Factor for Peace and Sustainable Development), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 9-11 December 2013 (06-08 Safar, 1435H)*

Considering relevant provisions of the Charter of Organization of Islamic Cooperation on intra-OIC cooperation in the socio-economic domain,

Taking cognizance of Final Communiqué of 12<sup>th</sup> Session of Islamic Summit (Session of New Challenges and Expanding Opportunities), particularly the provision on Economic Affairs, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 6-7 February 2013,

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,

Recalling also the Ten Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005, particularly its strong commitment to accelerate economic cooperation among OIC Member States as well as effective collaboration with regional and international organizations,

Reaffirming Resolutions on Economic Issues by 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Commending the various initiatives launched by OIC Member States towards strengthening economic cooperation among the OIC member states,

Also commending the activities of the various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIC,

Further commending the Secretary General's efforts which have greatly facilitated the follow-up of the implementation of various OIC resolutions,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

**A. OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia**

Reaffirming the relevant Resolution No. 4/39-E of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,



Recalling the Resolution No. 42/37-POL, of 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC, held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on 18-20 May 2010, with reference to creation of OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia,

Taking into consideration the endorsement of the OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia by 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 28-30 June 2011,

Taking note of the outcome of the first Meeting of Executive Committee of the Plan which was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 18 October 2011,

Also taking note of the outcomes of the Workshop on the “Country Partnership Models with Central Asia” organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office and Turkish Coordination and Cooperation Agency (TİKA) on 22-23 February 2012, in Ankara, Turkey”

Noting the various programmes and projects announced by OIC institutions namely, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ISESCO, and ICCIA within the OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia,

1. **Requests** the Secretary General to continue liaise with all competent authorities and stockholders in order to facilitate the convening of an Investment Forum for Central Asia;
2. **Calls** on member states in Central Asia to react to the demarche by the General Secretariat and submit their relevant project documents under the Plan;
3. **Urges** member states in Central Asia to adopt necessary arrangements for take-off the stipulated programmes in liaison with General Secretariat and relevant OIC Institutions;
4. **Calls** upon the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the OIC member states to continue consultative and other forms of assistance for the development of Islamic banking in Central Asia, and commends the cooperation between the IDB and the Republic of Kazakhstan within the framework of the IDB Country Partnership Strategy, particularly in the field of Islamic banking.

## **B. Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan**

Recalling the United Nations Security Council resolution 1401,

Also recalling the joint position of the OIC Member States in favor of a long- term commitment to Afghanistan that will bring peace and stability and socio-economic rehabilitation to this country,

Reiterating commitments to support the international efforts for reconstruction of Afghanistan,

Recalling also the Declaration of “Heart of Asia” Ministerial Conference held in Kabul on 14 June 2012,

Taking note of the Declaration of Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA V) Meeting which was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in March 2012, as well as OIC and its institutions for the collaboration in the execution of the following projects identified by RECCA:

- i. Development through Building Infrastructure (Railway, Highway, Energy);
  - ii. Human Resource Development, Vocational Training, Labour Market Facilitation;
  - iii. Investment, Trade, Transit and Border Management;
  - iv. Regional Disaster Risk Management and Rehabilitation;
  - v. Regional Fiber Optic Connectivity.
1. **Encourages** the OIC Member States, the General Secretariat and specialized organs to continue their efforts to attract funds for reconstruction of Afghanistan and strive for better coordination in this field;
  2. **Calls upon** the Member States to support the National Development Strategy of Afghanistan;
  3. **Commends** the reconstruction efforts undertaken by the neighboring States in Afghanistan and **urges** the OIC Member States to continue providing assistance for Afghanistan;
  4. **Encourages** the Member States to actively participate in the development of infrastructure in Afghanistan, including construction of international highways, railways, dams, hydroelectric power stations, electric transmission lines, etc;
  5. **Invites** the Member States to contribute to the implementation of the projects and plans on electric power export from Central Asian countries;
  6. **Urges** the Secretariat and the OIC institutional bodies in close coordination with relevant Member States to consider the proposal done by Tajikistan on construction of railroad Dushanbe-Mazari Sharif-Herat (with branch lines of Hayratan-Mazari Sharif and Kushka-Herat);
  7. **Invites** the Secretariat and the OIC institutional bodies in view of infrastructural development of Afghanistan to render technical assistance to relevant Member States on working out and construction of transit roads connecting the countries of Central Asia with Iran and Pakistan via Afghanistan;
  8. **Further invites** the Secretariat and the OIC institutional bodies in view of further industrial development of Afghanistan to encourage the Member States to participate in implementation of projects related to the construction of power transmission lines Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan;

9. **Commends** the contributions of Qatar, UAE, Oman, Iran, Brunei Darussalam and Sudan, to the OIC Assistance Fund for Afghanistan, and **calls** on other member states to contribute to this Fund;
10. **Appreciates** the contribution of Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey to the ECO Special Reconstruction Fund for Afghanistan, and **calls for** further contributions to speed up the reconstruction process in the country;
11. **Supports** the Ministerial Conference held in Kabul on 14 June 2012 and its Declaration.

**C. General Provision:**

1. **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 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

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**RESOLUTION No. 5/40-E**  
**ON**  
**COOPERATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL**  
**ORGANIZATIONS**

*The Fortieth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Dialogue of Civilizations, Factor for Peace and Sustainable Development), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 9-11 December 2013 (06-08 Safar, 1435H)*

Considering relevant provisions of the Charter of Organization of Islamic Cooperation on intra-OIC cooperation in the socio-economic domain,

Taking cognizance of Final Communiqué of 12<sup>th</sup> Session of Islamic Summit (Session of New Challenges and Expanding Opportunities), particularly the provision on Economic Affairs, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 6-7 February 2013,

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,

Recalling also the Ten Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005, particularly on the imperative of closer collaboration with international and sub-regional organisations for coordinated implementation of OIC projects and programmes,

Reaffirming Resolutions on Economic Issues by 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Taking into account the desire of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to continue to cooperate closely with regional and international organisations with common membership towards promoting a culture of peace through dialogue and cooperation, fundamental human rights, economic and social development, and combating international terrorism,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and regional and international organisations contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the OIC,

Commending the various initiatives launched by OIC Member States towards strengthening economic cooperation among the OIC member states,

Also commending the activities of the various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIC,

Further commending the Secretary General's efforts which have greatly facilitated the follow-up of the implementation of various OIC resolutions,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

#### **A. OIC-UN**

Taking note with appreciation of the close and multifaceted cooperation between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations with a view to addressing challenges to socio-economic development in their common members,

Also taking note of the results of the biennial meeting between the organizations and agencies within the United Nations system and the various institutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Geneva, Switzerland from 1-3 May 2012, to review and appraise the level of cooperation in the areas of mutual interest,

1. **Welcomes** the outcome of the OIC-UN biennial meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1-3 May 2012, detailing the specific areas of collaboration between the relevant OIC institutions and relevant UN agencies in such areas as trade promotion, agro-industrial capacity building, poverty alleviation and wealth creation, among others;
2. **Also welcomes** the final Declaration adopted by the World Anti-Crisis Conference held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 23-24 May 2013, and **invites** all member states to participate in the II World Anti-Crisis Conference to be held in Astana in May 2014, which its main result will be the draft of the World Anti-Crisis Plan for the United Nations;
3. **Encourages** the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its institutions to cooperate with the United Nations system in areas of mutual interest, as appropriate;
4. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to establish contacts with the concerned UN Regional Economic Commissions such as ESCWA, ESCAP and ECA towards creating a bilateral framework for cooperation in the areas of trade promotion, transportation and infrastructure development, tourism, agriculture and food security, finance and monetary policies.

#### **B. OIC- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**

Considering the need to promote enhanced cooperation between OIC and ECOWAS towards coordinated and effective implementation of OIC projects and programmes in common member states,

Aware of on-going efforts by the OIC General Secretariat to identify areas of cooperation between the two institutions through conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding,

1. **Encourages** the OIC to continue its efforts towards creating a bilateral framework for cooperation with ECOWAS in the area of trade promotion, transportation and infrastructure development, tourism, agriculture and food security, finance and monetary policies.

#### **C. OIC-Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding signed between OIC and IGAD during the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC CFM held in Djibouti on 15-17 November 2012,

Bearing in mind the need to create synergy between the various OIC programmes in the area of agriculture and food security and similar programmes of IGAD,

Recognizing the importance of coordinated inputs and active exchange of best practices as well as ensuring efficiency through an effective use of scarce resources,

1. **Requests** the secretariats of the two organizations to strengthen cooperation by consolidating efforts of their member states towards addressing food insecurity, strengthening agricultural research and extension, and combating desertification.

#### **D. OIC-World Economic Forum**

Taking note with appreciation the participation of OIC in the First Global Meeting of Regional Organisation organized by World Economic Forum in Dubai, UAE, on 12-14 November 2013,

Noting that regional cooperation remains best method of addressing global risks and relevant issues bearing on global trade, financial regulation, climate change and international security, among other trans-regional issues,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the OIC and World Economic Forum contributes to the promotion of the sustainable socio-economic development in OIC member states,

1. **Encourages** the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to continue its strategy on multi stakeholders' partnership for the realization of its various socio-economic programmes.

#### **E. OIC-League of Arab States (LAS)**

Taking note of on-going efforts by the OIC General Secretariat on activating working collaboration with League of Arab States (LAS) in the domain of trade facilitation, trade financing, tourism development and investment promotion,

Considering that importance of strengthening cooperation with regional groups particularly those within the OIC region will increase synergy and avoid duplication and enhance socio-economic development in OIC member states,

1. **Encourages** the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to continue its collaboration with League of Arab States particularly in such areas as Aid for Trade initiative, Youth Employment Scheme and tourism infrastructure development;
2. **Expresses** appreciation to the State of Kuwait for hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Afro-Arab Summit from 18-21 November 2013 as agreed upon by the League of Arab States and African Union and calls on concerned OIC member states to participate actively in this important event.

## **F. OIC-World Customs Organization (WCO)**

Taking note of on-going efforts by the OIC General Secretariat to identify areas of cooperation between the OIC and World Customs Organization (WCO) on through conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding,

Considering the need to promote enhanced cooperation between OIC and relevant regional and international organizations on promoting intra-OIC trade through coordinated and effective implementation of OIC projects and programmes in common member states,

1. **Encourages** the OIC to continue its efforts towards creating a bilateral framework for cooperation with WCO and other relevant organizations in the area of trade promotion, customs simplification procedures, and the use of ICT in OIC Member States.

## **G. OIC-IFAD**

Recalling the US\$1.5 billion co-financing agreement signed between Islamic Development Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) within the framework of Jeddah Declaration Initiative to fund agricultural development projects in OIC countries,

Affirming that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and International Fund for Agricultural Development share a common goal of promoting agriculture and enhancing food security in their member states,

Considering the need to further intensify and deepen their partnership and cooperation towards assisting the vulnerable segments of the populations of their common member states,

1. **Supports** the efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and International Fund for Agricultural Development to continue to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations in areas of agriculture, rural development and food security, and to review and explore innovative ways and means of enhancing the mechanisms of such cooperation.

## **H. General Provision:**

1. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to G to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

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**RESOLUTION No. 6/40-E**  
**ON**  
**ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE OIC MEMBER STATES AND MUSLIM**  
**COMMUNITIES IN NON OIC COUNTRIES**

*The Fortieth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Dialogue of Civilizations, Factor for Peace and Sustainable Development), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 9-11 December 2013 (06-08 Safar, 1435H)*

Considering relevant provisions of the Charter of Organization of Islamic Cooperation on intra-OIC cooperation in the socio-economic domain,

Taking cognizance of Final Communiqué of 12<sup>th</sup> Session of Islamic Summit (Session of New Challenges and Expanding Opportunities), particularly the provision on Economic Affairs, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 6-7 February 2013,

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,

Recalling also the Ten Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005, particularly its strong commitment to accelerate economic cooperation among OIC Member States as well as effective collaboration with regional and international organizations,

Reaffirming Resolutions on Economic Issues by 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Commending the various initiatives launched by OIC Member States towards strengthening economic cooperation among the OIC member states,

Also commending the activities of the various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIC,

Further commending the Secretary General's efforts which have greatly facilitated the follow-up of the implementation of various OIC resolutions,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

**A. Malaysian Capacity Building Programme for OIC Countries**

Taking note of the completion of the project in Mauritania, as well as on-going execution of the two other projects in Bangladesh and Sierra Leone under the Phase I of the Malaysian Capacity Building Programme for OIC Countries (CBP4OICC),



Commending the support given by the Government of Malaysia and the Islamic Development Bank for the execution of projects within the framework of CBP4OICC,

Noting the on-going efforts to review the CBP4OICC with a view to ensuring successful take-off of the subsequent phases of the Programme,

Underscoring the need to transform capacity-building programme into a development project that would engage the beneficiaries in win-win development project,

1. **Calls** upon all OIC member states to extend all possible support to the CBP4OICC in the spirit of Islamic solidarity, brotherhood, progress and development;
2. **Invites** OIC member states to develop similar capacity-building programmes for the needy OIC member states;
3. **Underscores** the crucial importance of developing triangular and South-South Cooperation programmes among OIC member states;
4. **Recognizes** the important role of regional programmes in developing capacity for integration among OIC member states.

#### **B. Kuwait Fund for Decent Living**

Commending the initiative of His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait to establish a Fund for Decent Living in Islamic countries with the aim of supporting agricultural development and enhancing food security in OIC least developed countries (LDCs),

Recognizing the need to effectively utilize the funding resources available under the Fund for Decent Living,

1. **Calls on** OIC member states to submit their projects relating to agricultural development and enhancing food security for financing under the Kuwait Fund for Decent Living;
2. **Invites** other OIC member states to develop similar initiatives aimed at supporting development activities in OIC member states.

#### **C. Cooperation with Charitable and Civil Society Organizations**

Recognizing the important role that play charitable and civil society organizations in the implementation of the various OIC socio-economic programmes,

Commending the on-going efforts of the OIC General Secretariat to engage the charitable and civil society organizations from both OIC and non-OIC countries in the implementation of OIC programmes,

Taking note of the recent consultations of OIC with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and The Prince's Charities of the United Kingdom to identify areas of closer cooperation,

1. **Encourages** OIC and its institutions to continue to engage with charitable and civil society organizations on the implementation of OIC programmes, including exchanges of information, best practices and expertise, practical cooperation and raising awareness of OIC's policies on promoting socio-economic development in its member states.

#### **D. Assistance to Member States**

Expressing appreciation for humanitarian and development assistances provided by OIC Member States in the form of capacity building, humanitarian and developmental programmes,

Noting the growing importance of external assistance in alleviating poverty, enhancing food security, promoting sustainable development and strengthening institutional capacity in OIC member states, in particular among its least developed countries,

Commending the initiative of Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> capacity building course on Advancement in Reserve Petroleum Enhancing and Enhanced Oil Recovery Methods for oil producing member states in Africa, held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 14-22 May 2013,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

#### **Republic of Azerbaijan:**

Confirming full solidarity of the Member States of the OIC 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.

**Republic of Benin:**

Recalling the Articles of the Charter of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation aimed at promoting cooperation among member states to achieve sustained socio-economic development for effective integration in the global economy, in conformity with the principles of partnership and equality, mutual assistance and solidarity,

Noting that the Government of Benin continues to experience difficulties in mobilizing required resources to implement its planned economic and social development programmes,

Taking into account the launch by the Government of the Republic of Benin a project aimed at equipping, rehabilitating and building the technical and vocational education and training institutions, which are necessary prerequisite for an income generating employment among youth in Benin,

Having considered the relevant report of the Secretary-General,

1. **Requests** the OIC member states, relevant national and multilateral funding organizations, as well as OIC institutions to support the implementation of the project "Equipping Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions in 120 days".

**Republic of Cote d'Ivoire:**

Recalling all previous OIC resolutions on economic assistance to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire,

Welcoming the steady progress and achievements Côte d'Ivoire has made in the recent years in advancing economic recovery and strengthening international and regional cooperation, notably increasing cooperation with the OIC,

Noting the outcome of the meeting of the Consultative Group on Financing National Development Plan of Côte d'Ivoire held in Paris, France on 4-5 December 2012,

Welcoming the pledge by the Islamic Development Bank Group of US\$1 billion in support of the implementation of the various projects under the National Development Plan of Côte d'Ivoire over period of 4 years (2013-2016),

Having considered the relevant report of the Secretary-General,

1. **Requests** the OIC member states, relevant national and multilateral funding organizations, as well as OIC institutions to support the implementation of the projects within the framework of National Development Plan of Côte d'Ivoire.

**Union of Comoros:**

Recalling its previous resolutions on assistance to the Comoros, in which it appealed to the member states to actively help the Comoros by providing it with needed material, economic, human and financial resources, to effectively implement its economic and social development programmes,

Noting that the Government of the Comoros has given priority to the strengthening the capacity of women entrepreneurs as well as developing a national program for promoting women entrepreneurship in the Comoros,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the steps he has taken to mobilize assistance for the Comoros,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,

1. **Appeals** to OIC member states, relevant national and multilateral funding organizations, as well as OIC institutions to support the implementation of the Master Plan "On Development of Women Entrepreneurship in the Comoros";
2. **Renews** its call to OIC member states and its institutions, other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as international financial institutions, to continue to provide the Comoros with assistance to enable it pursue its development goals.

**Republic of Guinea:**

Recalling Resolution No.11/36-P on the situation in Guinea adopted by the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, from 18 to 20 May 2010,

Considering the difficult socio-economic situation prevailing in the Republic of Guinea in many years,

Appreciating the political role of the Republic of Guinea in maintaining peace and security in the sub-region, particularly in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea Bissau,

Underscoring the necessity of establishing durable security and development in the Republic of Guinea,

Considering the current political situation in the Republic of Guinea resulting in democratic election of the President of Republic on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2010,

Lauding the measures taken by the President of the Republic, H.E. Prof. Alpha CONDE, towards redressing the economic, financial, and administrative situation in the country,

1. **Invites** the OIC Member States, to extend their support to the Government of Guinea towards promotion of reconciliation of national unity, defense and security reforms, youth and women employment policies;
2. **Appeals** to member states, financial institutions, development partners to give financial, technical and material assistance for economic reconstruction and rehabilitation of Guinea;
3. **Expresses appreciation** to those member states which have already extended political and material support to the Government of Guinea.

**Somalia:**

Recalling its previous resolutions on the economic assistance to Somalia, in particular the Resolution No. 8/39-E on Economic Assistance to Somalia adopted by the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti on 15-17 November 2012,

Underlining the importance of supporting the Federal Government of Somalia's efforts towards strengthening its social and economic infrastructures that are necessary for effective implementation of its socio-economic programmes and development strategy,

Recognizing the steady progress in Somalia over the past year and need to continue to support the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia towards consolidating security and peace, promoting socio-economic development and establishing the rule of law in the country,

Noting with satisfaction the assistance rendered to Somalia to date by various OIC member states and institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to mobilize international support for Somalia,

Welcoming the interest demonstrated by the Republic of Azerbaijan to undertake a project on training of trainers in both educational and agricultural sectors in Somalia,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,

1. **Appeals** to OIC member states, relevant national and multilateral funding organizations, as well as OIC institutions and voluntary agencies to continue to extend all possible material, financial and technical assistance to the Government of Somalia to enable it pursue its socio-economic programmes and development strategy.

## **E. Economic Assistance to Muslim Minorities and Communities in Non-OIC countries**

### **Economic Assistance to the People of Jammu and Kashmir:**

Recalling all previous resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Conference 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,

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,

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, particularly the establishment of a Special Trust Fund for the assistance of Kashmiris and particularly focus upon the higher educational, employment and vocational needs of the Kashmiri youth ;
2. **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;
3. **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 in order to facilitate the economic and social wellbeing of effected people;
4. **Appeals** to Member States and the Islamic Institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and institutions, professional colleges and vocational training centers in the OIC countries.

## **F. General Provision:**

1. **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 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

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**RESOLUTION No. 7/40-E**  
**ON**  
**ACTIVITIES OF THE RELEVANT OIC INSTITUTIONS**

*The Fortieth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Dialogue of Civilizations, Factor for Peace and Sustainable Development), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 9-11 December 2013 (06-08 Safar, 1435H)*

Considering relevant provisions of the Charter of Organization of Islamic Cooperation on intra-OIC cooperation in the socio-economic domain,

Taking cognizance of Final Communiqué of 12<sup>th</sup> Session of Islamic Summit (Session of New Challenges and Expanding Opportunities), particularly the provision on Economic Affairs, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 6-7 February 2013,

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,

Recalling also the Ten Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005, particularly its strong commitment to accelerate economic cooperation among OIC Member States as well as effective collaboration with regional and international organizations,

Reaffirming Resolutions on Economic Issues by 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012,

Commending the various initiatives launched by OIC Member States towards strengthening economic cooperation among the OIC member states,

Also commending the activities of the various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIC,

Further commending the Secretary General's efforts which have greatly facilitated the follow-up of the implementation of various OIC resolutions,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

**A. Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)**

Having taken note with satisfaction of the activity report submitted by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC),

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the activities of SESRIC,



1. **Lauds** the SESRIC for preparing highly instructive technical reports and studies on the most prominent items of the agenda of the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other OIC Ministerial Conferences and meetings, and **calls upon** the Member States to endeavour to implement the recommendations and project proposals contained in these reports and studies;
2. **Encourages** the Centre to conduct joint research projects with various relevant regional, international and national research and think-tank institutions and universities on developmental issues of interest to the Member Countries, particularly on issues related to poverty alleviation, with a view to generating proposals that will initiate and enhance cooperation among them;
3. **commends** the continuous efforts of SESRIC, in its capacity as the Executing Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, towards initiating and implementing various capacity building programmes and training courses in different field and areas of interest to the Member States with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in these countries, and **Calls upon** the Member States to participate and support these activities of SESRIC through activating the role of their National Focal Points (NFPs) in this important Programme;
4. **Welcomes and appreciates** the close cooperation between the IDB Group and SESRIC for pooling and coordinating their efforts to facilitate the implementation of various training activities within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and **urges** them to enhance and increase their cooperation in this important area;
5. **Takes note with satisfaction of** the active role of SESRIC in organising the annual meetings of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States, as well as the annual Sessions of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), and calls upon the Member States to actively participate in these two important cooperation forums;
6. **Appreciates** the high quality database of SESRIC on socio-economic indicators of the OIC Member States and the various statistical publications of the Centre, and **commends** the continuous efforts of the SESRIC towards enhancing the technical capacities of the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the OIC Member Countries within the framework of the Centre's Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB);
7. **Also appreciates** the highly effective level of cooperation between the SESRIC and the relevant international and regional institutions, and **encourages** the Centre to intensify its contacts and cooperation efforts with these institutions, particularly those working in the framework of the United Nations and other renowned international institutions, for the benefit of the Member Countries;
8. **Urges** the Member States, which have not done so thus far, to settle their regular mandatory contributions to the budget of the Centre, and to act for the settlement of their arrears, if any, at the earliest;

9. **Invites** OIC to provide its support in order to enable its member states to develop their statistics systems, generate quality data on social development and facilitate access thereto with a view to ensuring their utilization in impact-measuring and in assessing the performance of public social policies and programs;
10. **Also invites** OIC to hold a high-level symposium on strategic planning and prospective studies in devising social policies through analysis and planning approaches based on human rights and on result-oriented management, and on the development of the performance of public social policies and analyzing their impact on different social segments.

#### **B. Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)**

Commending various activities and initiatives by Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) in the area of trade facilitation, trade promotion and capacity building,

Taking note of the report and recommendations of the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of Board of Directors of Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), which was held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 16-17 April 2013,

Considering that some OIC member states are in the negotiation process of accession to the WTO,

Also Considering the efforts rendered to materialize the universality of the WTO at regional and international levels,

Having taken note with satisfaction of the activity report submitted by the ICDT,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the activities of ICDT,

#### ***TPS-OIC and the Promotion of Intra-OIC Trade:***

1. **Commends** the efforts of the COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT for the operationalization of the TPS-OIC System;
2. **Also commends** the valuable work carried out by ICDT in all the fields of its specialisation and notes with satisfaction the special interest the Centre gives to the implementation of the “Ten Year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> OIC Extraordinary Summit Conference, notably the objective aiming at enhancing the share of intra-OIC trade in the global trade of Member States by 20% by 2015;
3. **Notes with satisfaction** the preparation by ICDT of the Study on the Free Trade Area among the OIC Member States and the impact of the full implementation of TPS OIC on Member States;
4. **Took notes with satisfaction** of the technical assistance extended by the Centre to make known the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States and in particular, the organization by the ICDT of awareness-raising and training seminars on the TPS/OIC in Libya in March 2012, in

Kuwait in May 2012, in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and in Palestine in June 2013;

5. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and ICDT and IDB Group for organizing the “OIC High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation and Single Window Initiatives for Enhanced Regional Economic Cooperation” in Casablanca (Kingdom of Morocco) on 25-26 February 2013 and **welcomes** the outcome of the meeting ;
6. **Notes with satisfaction** the organization by the Centre on regular basis of the “Meeting of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC trade” in the kingdom of Morocco and **Requests** ICDT in collaboration with ITFC, IDB and UNDP to conduct a comprehensive impact assessment of the activities adopted within the Executive Programme towards achieving the target of 20% of intra-OIC trade by 2015 based on Key Performance Indicators and to improve the coordination mechanism of the OIC Consultative Group with a view to enhancing its efficiency and performance;
7. **Takes note of** the offer of the People’s Republic of China to organize with ICDT the 1<sup>st</sup> OIC CHINA EXPO AND ECONOMIC & TRADE FORUM to be held in Yinchuan-Autonomous Province of Ningxia Hui, People’s Republic of China, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and **urges** Member States to participate in this event;
8. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Forum of Muslim Business and Expo in Dakar, in collaboration with ICDT and ICIC from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and **urges** the Member States to actively participate in this event;
9. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and to ICDT for organizing the First OIC Commercial Handicraft Expo on 11-14 April 2013 in Casablanca;
10. **Welcomes** the offer of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the Seminar on R&D valorization, technological innovation and Intellectual Property among the OIC Member States to be organized by ICDT and OMPIC in collaboration with WIPO in Casablanca on 24-25 October 2013 and **urges** the Member States to actively participate in this event;
11. **Welcomes** the cooperation initiated among ICDT the Arab League and private sector in OIC Member states and in particular with the OIC International Business Centre Sdn Bhd Malaysia and the global coalition for efficient Logistics;
12. **Notes with appreciation** the reports submitted by ICDT and ITFC on the expansion of intra-OIC trade;
13. **Welcomes** the offers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 14<sup>th</sup>, the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> editions of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States respectively in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019 and **urges** the Member States to actively participate in these fairs;
14. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Tunisia to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> OIC TOURISM FAIR in 2014 after consultations with the Arab Republic of Egypt and **urges** the Member States to actively participate in this event;

15. **Requests** the ICDDT to hold more sector-specific exhibitions and to keep on utilizing professional expertise in these activities;
16. **Commends** the role of ICDDT in the supervision and coordination of two projects namely the Regional Project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”, the project on “Technical Cooperation among the Industrial Property Offices in the OIC Member States” in collaboration with TPI (Turkey) and OMPIC (Morocco);
17. **Call on** IDB Group and ICDDT to carry on their efforts in raising awareness of Member States of the WTO trade negotiations and their impacts on their economies and **request them** to pool and coordinate their efforts to reinforce the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on equitable and fair basis. In this connection, **requests** IDB Group and ICDDT to coordinate the positions of Member States within the WTO with a view to setting up a common platform of negotiations;
18. **Calls on** IDB Group and ICDDT to keep on extending their technical assistance to the Member States in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations, including facilitation of their membership in WTO;
19. **Requests** the IDB and ICDDT to keep on extending their technical assistance particularly in facilitating the accession process of member states to the WTO, through, among others capacity building measures as well as organizing seminars, workshops and etc;
20. **Entrusts** IDB Group and ICDDT to monitor matters relating to WTO activities and report them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned fora.

***Food Security and Agricultural Development in OIC Member States:***

21. **Expresses its appreciation** to the State of the United Arab Emirates for hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> OIC Halal Food Expo in collaboration with ICDDT and the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Sharjah City on 10-12 December and **Welcomes** the offer of the State of the United Arab Emirates to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Halal Expo in collaboration with ICDDT and the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Sharjah City on 16-18 December 2013 and **urges** the Member States to actively participate in this event;
22. **Expresses** its appreciation to the Sultanate of Oman for hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Agribusiness Industries Exhibition of the OIC Member States in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman in collaboration with ICDDT and Al Sham Company on 13-16 May 2013;

***Activities in the field of Poverty Alleviation:***

23. **Calls upon** the IDB Group and other relevant OIC institutions to organize the Investment Forum for resource mobilization for OIC cotton Action Plan and invites the OIC Member States and International Organizations and donors to participate actively in this Forum;
24. **Calls on** all concerned Member States to fully benefit from the OIC Cotton Plan of Action and submit projects in the domains of cotton, textile and related activities;
25. **Takes note with appreciation** of the recommendations of the Meetings of the Steering Committee of the Regional Project on “Sustainable Tourism Development

in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa” held respectively on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Casablanca (Kingdom of Morocco) and on 17 October 2012 in Arusha (Tanzania) and in particular, the recommendations related to the following:

- The listing of the Project by the Member Countries as a priority in development programs submitted to bilateral and multilateral donors;
- The submission of the projects related to national segments for selection to the next Steering Committee Meeting of the Project.

26. **Calls on** Member Countries, Stakeholders of the Project to implement the above mentioned recommendations with a view to facilitating the mobilization of funds needed for the financing of the Project.

### **C. Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)**

Taking note of the Report on the activities of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA),

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the activities of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA),

Recalling all previous resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on ICCIA particularly Resolution 7/9-E of the Ninth and 8/39-S&T of the Thirty-ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers,

1. **Encourages** the activities of ICCIA to enhance intra-OIC trade and commerce and bridging the gap between the private sector of the member states through holding meetings, Business Forums, training programmes and seminars;
2. **Appreciates** the role of the Government of Pakistan in supporting the Islamic Chamber and urges the latter to continue to locate its headquarters in Karachi;
3. **Welcomes** the initiatives undertaken by the ICCIA to increase its capacity building programmes, B2B, Public Private Partnership (PPP) events and to make efforts for all stakeholders to derive maximum benefit;
4. **Notes** with appreciation the workshops being organized for the development of SMEs in Kazakhstan and Uganda with the cooperation of KOSGEB and the awareness of Islamic finance in Uganda;
5. **Takes note** of the programmes of ICCIA in the areas of Zakat, SME Development and Entrepreneurship Development and calls upon all stakeholders to work collectively for the implementation of the programmes as well as invites ICCIA to cooperate on Halal Issues with the SMIIIC which has been authorized by 38th CFM as the technically competent and only authorized platform for the Halal issues
6. **Also takes note** of the programmes of ICCIA in the following area: ;

- i. 15<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting to be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran on 27-28 Oct. 2013.
- ii. 7<sup>th</sup> Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries to be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013.
- iii. Second Regional Workshop for Zakat Organizations to be held in Africa in 2013.
- iv. Seminar on Creating awareness of the utilities and privileges of various OIC Agreements (TPS-OIC) to be held in Sudan in 2013.
- v. Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agribusiness to be held in Sudan in December 2013.

#### **D. Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC):**

Commending the new initiatives by SMIIC in the area of trade facilitation, trade promotion and capacity building,

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

1. **Welcomes** the increase in the number of SMIIC Members with 6 new members (the Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Lebanon, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the State of Palestine) to 23 Member States;
2. **Takes note** of the organization of SMIIC Forum 2012 in November 2012, in Antalya, Republic of Turkey as a platform bringing experts and professionals from both OIC Member Countries and international institutions in the fields of standardization, metrology and accreditation;
3. **Take notes also** of SMIIC Capacity Building activities for OIC Member States in the fields of Standardization, Metrology and Accreditation as well as SMIIC Workshop on “Building and Enhancing Standardization, Metrology and Accreditation Capacity in the OIC Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Member States” held in May 2013 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey which was attended by 21 representatives from 19 OIC LDCs;
4. **Encourages** the SMIIC Member States to adopt the OIC/SMIIC Standards as their National Standards in order to aid the harmonization of Standards, Metrology and Accreditation and eliminate the technical barriers to trade amongst OIC Member States;
5. **Requests** the Member States to become a member of SMIIC, in order to benefit from the services provided by SMIIC and actively participate in its established Technical Committees (TCs) namely TC1: Halal Food Issues, TC2: Halal Cosmetic Issues, TC3: Service Site Issues, TC4: Renewable Energy, TC5: Tourism and Related Services, TC6: Agricultural Processes, TC7: Transportation in the area of Standardization;

6. **Encourages** the National Accreditation Bodies of the OIC Member States to become a member of SMIIC Accreditation Committee (AC) in the area of Accreditation whose activities are independent;
7. **Invites** the National Metrology Bodies of the OIC Member States to become a member of SMIIC Metrology Committee (MC) in the area of Metrology;
8. **Takes note** of the reports of the Sixth Board of Directors and Fourth General Assembly Meetings of SMIIC held on 15-17 of April 2013 which include the mandatory contributions of SMIIC Members to SMIIC Budget and launching of proposed SMIIC Certification Bodies (CBs) Programme on OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards;
9. **Invites** all related OIC organs to support and collaborate with SMIIC in order to facilitate the realization of its activities and vice versa where appropriate;

**E. General Provision:**

1. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to D to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

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**RESOLUTION  
OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION  
OF THE COMCEC**

**(Istanbul, 18-21 November 2013)**

The Twenty-Ninth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey, on 18-21 November 2013;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, including the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 7-8 December 2005 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah;

Welcoming the operationalization of the COMCEC Strategy adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 August 2012 in Makkah Al-Mukarramah ;

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

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, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC.

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

1- **Welcomes** the operationalization of the COMCEC Strategy and **requests** the Member States and OIC Institutions to extend their support to the implementation of the Strategy.

2- **Welcomes** the progress achieved towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy in particular, the convening of the COMCEC Working Groups and the launch of the first project call within the framework of the COMCEC PCM.

3- **Requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office to report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy regularly to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

4- **Takes note** of the report of the COMCEC Coordination Office namely “COMCEC Annual Progress Report 2013” which provides detailed information on the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy as well as the activities organized in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

5- **Welcomes** the activities to be organized by the relevant OIC Institutions (SESRIC, ICDT, IDB, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC) in 2014 in line with the Strategy.

6- **Adopts** the recommendations of the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

**Implementation of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action (TYPOA) (Agenda Item: 3)**

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

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

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

#### **Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 5)**

9- **Welcomes** the convening of the First and Second Meetings of the COMCEC Trade Working Group held on June 20<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> 2013 in Ankara respectively and **urges** the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend actively to the Third Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Facilitating Intra-OIC Trade: Improving the Efficiency of the Customs Administrations” and the Fourth Meeting to be organized in Fall 2014.

10- Referring to the deliberations made during the First and Second COMCEC Trade Working Group Meetings, **acknowledges** the crucial role of the SMEs for the economies of the Member States and **urges** the Member States to improve the economic environment for the SMEs to promote their exports.

11- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize a workshop on Competition Law Practices to be held on 9-10 December 2013 in İstanbul and the offer of Republic of Tunisia to host Seminar on competition policies in the OIC Member Countries in collaboration with ICDT in June 2014 in Tunis and **urges** the Member States to actively participate in these events.

12- **Also welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Tunisia to host the International Conference on offshoring among the OIC Member States in collaboration with ICDT in November 2014 in Tunis and **urges** the Member States to actively participate in this event.

13- **Further welcomes** the activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in 2014 in the area of trade aligned with the Strategy. (Annex I)

#### ***i) TPS-OIC***

14- **Welcomes** the progress achieved by Benin, Mauritania, Sudan, Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, Morocco, Iran, Gambia, Kuwait and Djibouti towards becoming a party to the

TPS-OIC **appeals** to them to finalize the remaining procedures to make the System operational at earliest convenience.

15- **Reiterates** its call on 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 and complete the following procedures at their earliest convenience:

- Notify 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.
- 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.

16- **Requests** the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to consider convening its session when the required number of Member States having ratified the three TPS-OIC Agreements convey their lists of concessions to the TNC Secretariat.

*ii) Islamic Trade Fairs*

17- **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 coordination with ICDT:

- United Arab Emirates for organizing 1st OIC Halal Food Expo on 10-12 December 2012 in Sharjah.
- Kingdom of Morocco for organizing First OIC Commercial Handicraft Expo on 11-14 April 2013 in Casablanca.
- Sultanate of Oman for hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Agribusiness Industries Exhibition of the OIC Member States on 13-16 May 2013 in Muscat.
- Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> OIC Trade Fair from 28<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 in Tehran.
- United Arab Emirates for offering the organization of 2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Halal Expo on 16-18 December 2013.

18- **Welcomes** the offers of the following Member States to host Islamic Trade Fairs

in collaboration with ICDT in 2014:

- State of the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah)  
1<sup>st</sup> OIC TPOs for English Speaking Countries (19-28 March 2014 in Sharjah)
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
7<sup>th</sup> OIC Agribusiness Expo (13-16 April 2014 in Jeddah)
- Republic of Tunisia  
2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Tourism Fair (23-26 April 2014 in Tunis)
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
1<sup>st</sup> Exhibition on Furniture, Decoration, Household and Electrical Appliances (11-14 May 2014 in Jeddah)
- Republic of Senegal  
2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Health Expo ( 26-29 June 2014 in Dakar)
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
1<sup>st</sup> OIC Hajj and Omrah Expo (16-20 November 2014 in Madinah Al-Munawwarah)
- State of United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah)  
3<sup>rd</sup> OIC Halal Expo (December 2014)

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

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

20- **Takes note** that, despite the world economic and financial instability, the net volume of intra-OIC trade reached USD 371 billion and the share in the overall foreign trade of Member States reached 18.21% in 2012.

21- **Requests** the Member States to keep on providing the ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations.

22- **Takes note** of the report of the “5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC trade” held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 27-28 February 2013 and **requests** the Consultative Group to carry out its work with the active participation of the OIC Institutions in line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and in accordance with its mandate.

23- **Also takes note** of the report of the “OIC High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation & Single Window Initiatives for Enhanced Regional Economic Cooperation” in Casablanca (Kingdom of Morocco) on 25-26 February 2013 and **calls upon** the Member States which have not done so, to establish National Single Window to facilitate their international trade.

*iv) WTO Related Technical Assistance*

24- **Welcomes** the accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO and **encourages** the non-WTO Member OIC Countries, to join this organization and **requests** the WTO Member OIC Countries to support the new OIC acceding countries. In this regard, **welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to provide technical assistance to these countries.

25- **Calls on** IDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member States on WTO-related issues and report their activities to the COMCEC Sessions.

26- **Invites** the World Trade Organization (WTO) to consider favourably granting observer status within WTO to the ICDT in order to help it follow-up WTO matters, including studies, research, capacity building and reports to OIC Fora.

*v) Trade Financing Activities*

27- **Takes note** of the trade finance activities of IDB Group (ITFC) and the mobilization of funds from the international market for funding the trade operations in the member countries, contributing towards the achievement of intra-OIC trade target of 20 percent.

28- **Requests** the IDB Group (ITFC) to consider developing new credit instruments covering both medium and long term finance for semi-capital and capital goods.

29- **Stresses** the importance of the “Aid for Trade (AfT) initiative to the Arab States” initiated by the International Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) to help 22 Arab countries (members of the League of Arab States) to expand trade beyond current levels, boost economic growth and employment, reverse deindustrialization, **calls upon** ITFC and its regional and international partners to support its successful implementation as soon as possible and **invites** the concerned Member States to actively participate and support the implementation of this initiative.

30- **Takes note with appreciation** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to share the experience of Türk Eximbank with the other Member States and cooperate with the Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) of other member states to increase bilateral trade.

*vi) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC*

31- **Acknowledges** the increasing visibility of the SMIIC through organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence.

32- **Welcomes** the establishment of seven technical committees as well as accreditation committee and Metrology Committee under SMIIC which would expedite the development of standardization, accreditation and metrology in the Member States and **calls upon** the Member States and the OIC institutions to support the activities of the SMIIC.

33- **Also welcomes** the membership of Palestine, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Lebanon and Afghanistan to SMIIC and **requests** the Member States which have not done so far, to join SMIIC to benefit from the services provided by the SMIIC.

**Improving Transport and Communications (Agenda Item 6)**

34- **Welcomes** the convening of the First and Second Meetings of the COMCEC Transport Working Group on March 28th and October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Ankara Turkey respectively.

35- **Requests** the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the Transport Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and **encourages** them to participate in the Third Meeting of the Group to be held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with the theme of “Developing Multi-modal Freight Transport among the Member States” and the Fourth Meeting to be held in Fall 2014 in Ankara, Turkey.

36- **Welcomes** the recent developments with regard to the final prefeasibility studies on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project in the framework of cooperation between OIC and African Union. **Requests** the participating Member States to submit the relevant documents on their national segments on the railway line for further action before eventual convening of a donors conference on this project.

37- **Also welcomes** the activities to be organized by COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC and OISA in 2014 in the area of transport and communications in line with the COMCEC Strategy (Annex I).

## **Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector (Agenda Item 7)**

38- **Welcomes** the convening of the First and Second Meetings of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on April 25<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 in Ankara, Turkey respectively.

39- **Requests** the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the Tourism Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and **encourages** them to participate in the Third Meeting of the Group to be held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with the theme of “Enabling the Tourism Investment Climate in the COMCEC Region” and the Fourth Meeting to be organized in Fall 2014.

40- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of the Gambia to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) on 3-5 December 2013 in Banjul and urges the Member States to actively participate in the event.

41- **Also welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum on 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in Istanbul with the theme of “Effective Marketing Strategies for Promoting Tourism Destinations in the COMCEC Region” and **calls upon** all the Member Countries to encourage their private sector representatives to actively participate in this important event.

42- **Welcomes** the organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Health Tourism in Masshad, Iran by Islamic Republic of Iran on 26-27 November 2013 and **invites** the Member States and the private sector to participate in this Conference.

43- With a view to facilitating the mobilization of funds needed for the financing of the project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in A Network of Cross-Border and Protected Areas in West Africa”, **requests** the participating Member States to include the project as a priority in their development programmes submitted to bilateral and multilateral donors and to submit the projects related to national segments to the next Steering Committee meeting of the project

44- **Calls on** the concerned Member Countries; Stakeholders of the Project to implement the above mentioned recommendations with a view to facilitating the mobilization of funds needed for the financing of the Project.

## **Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security (Agenda Item: 8)**

45- **Welcomes** the convening of the First Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.

46- **Requests** the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the Agriculture Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and **encourages** them to participate in the Second Meeting of the Working Group to be held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with the theme of *"Encouraging Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the COMCEC Region for Increasing Agricultural Productivity"*, Third Meeting to be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, with the theme of *"Improving the Statistical Capacity of the Agriculture Sector in the COMCEC Region"* and Fourth Meeting to be held in Fall 2014.

47- **Welcomes** the activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC and ICCIA in 2014, in the area of agriculture in line with the Strategy. (Annex-I).

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

## **Report on Poverty Eradication (Agenda Item 9)**

49- **Welcomes** the convening of the First Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.

50- **Requests** the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the Poverty Alleviation Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and **encourages** them to participate in the Second Meeting of the Working Group to be held on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with the theme of *"Targeting Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Systems in the COMCEC Region"*, Third Meeting to be held on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with the theme of *"Monitoring Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Programmes in the COMCEC Region"* and Fourth Meeting to be held in Fall 2014.

51- **Also welcomes** the activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC and ICCIA in 2014 in the area of poverty alleviation in line with the Strategy. (Annex-I).



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

52- **Reiterates** its request to the Member Countries which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfill their commitments so as to enable it to finance more projects in Member States.

53- **Welcomes** the initiatives of ISFD aimed at achieving and intensifying the efforts for resource mobilization and advocacy.

54- **Also 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).

55- **Takes note** of the initiative of IDB Group for formulating an action plan to facilitate the effective implementation of the projects and to assess the effectiveness of the SPDA.

*ii) OIC Cotton Program*

56- **Takes note** of the report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the OIC Cotton Action Plan held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.

57- **Calls upon** the IDB to organize the 5<sup>th</sup> Project Committee Meeting in the first quarter of 2014 with the view to exploring the possibility, in collaboration with the project owners, of redesigning the cotton projects that are yet to be financed, in such a format that may render them eligible for applying for different schemes of financing as soft projects.

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

*iii) OIC-VET Program*

59- **Takes note** of the 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 within the framework of OIC-VET Programme with a view to enhancing the capacities and quality of human resources in these countries.

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

61- **Takes note** of the study entitled “Managing Disasters and Conflicts in OIC Member Countries” prepared by SESRIC and IDB, at the request of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and **invites** the Member States to present their views on its content within a period of 3 months to the COMCEC Coordination Office for its consideration by the next Session of the COMCEC.

#### **Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item 10)**

62- **Requests** the Member States, which have not done so to notify their focal points for the COMCEC Finance Working Group to the COMCEC Coordination Office and **encourages** them to participate in the First Meeting of the Working Group to be held on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with the theme of “*Enhancing Capital Flows among COMCEC Member Countries*”, Second Meeting to be held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with the theme of “*Enhancing Financial Inclusion in COMCEC Countries*” and the Third Meeting to be held in Fall 2014.

63- **Welcomes** the activities to be organized by COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, IDB Group and ICCIA in 2014 in the area of finance in line with the Strategy. (Annex-I)

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

64- **Takes note** of the report of the Seventh Meeting of the OIC Member States’ Stock Exchanges Forum on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in İstanbul.

65- **Recalling** the relevant decision of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, **requests** the Member States and IDB to lend their support for the promotion of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index in the Member States.

66- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum in 2014 in İstanbul and **requests** all the member states to actively participate in

this Meeting.

*ii) COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum*

67- **Takes note** of the report of the Second Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in İstanbul and **invites** the Member States to support the efforts of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum through participating its meetings, contributing to the accomplishment of the mandates of the Task Forces, appointing contact persons to follow up work and using the its website effectively.

68- **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the next Meeting of the Forum in 2014 in İstanbul and **requests** all the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.

*iii) Meetings of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities*

69- **Acknowledges** the on-going concerns on global financial situation, and **welcomes** the close cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States.

70- **Also welcomes** the convening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities and the workshop with the theme of “Impact of Recent International Financial Regulatory Reforms on OIC Countries” to be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 27-28 November 2013 in Jeddah and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in these events.

71- **Takes note** with appreciation the organization of capacity building and experience sharing programs among the Central Banks of the Member States by SESRIC in coordination with the Member States.

**Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation (Agenda Item 11)**

*i) Private Sector Meetings*

72- **Takes note** of the activities of the ICCIA in promoting Intra-Islamic Trade, by providing opportunities to the private sector for networking, through private sector meetings, seminars and Workshops and **calls upon** the IDB Group to support ICCIA in this respect.

73- **Takes note** of the recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting, the 7<sup>th</sup> Businesswomen Forum held jointly in Tehran, Iran on 28-30 October 2013 and the 6<sup>th</sup> Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Countries held in Kingdom of Bahrain on 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012

74- **Calls upon** the private sector of the Member States to actively participate in the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA:

- 16<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting for Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investment among the Islamic Countries (Sharjah, UAE – 20-22 March 2014).
- Seminar on Creating awareness of the utilities and privileges of various OIC Agreements (TPS-OIC) (Sharjah – U.A.E. 22 March 2014).
- Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business (Sudan - April 2014).
- Second Regional Workshop for Zakat Organizations (Africa-2014).
- 8<sup>th</sup> Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries (2014).

75- **Takes note** of the report of the Workshop on “Cooperation and Experience Sharing Among the Trade Registry Agencies of the OIC Member States” on 11-12 September 2013, in Ankara, Turkey.

76- **Appreciates** the willingness of the Republic of Turkey through Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB) to continue organizing experience sharing programmes in 2014 with the similar institutions of requesting countries within the bounds of possibility.

77- **Requests** the Member States to communicate their focal points from SME Support Institutions to the COMCEC Coordination Office to facilitate organization of the capacity building and experience sharing programs.

### **Exchange of Views on “Increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flows to the OIC Member Countries” (Agenda Item 12)**

78- **Takes note** of the report of the workshop on “FDI Flows to the OIC Member Countries” organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office and SESRIC in cooperation with the IDB Group (ICIEC) on September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.

#### ***i) Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session***

79- **Decides on** “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States ” as the theme for the Exchange of Views at the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the COMCEC Coordination Office and SESRIC to organize a workshop on this topic prior to the 30th Session of the COMCEC and report its outcomes to the said COMCEC Session.

**Date of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item 13)**

80- **Decides** that the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 7-8 May 2014 in Ankara and the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC will be held on 25-28 November 2014 in İstanbul.

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

*i) Renewal of the Bureau Members*

81- **Elects** State of Kuwait, Republic of Indonesia and Republic of Niger as Vice-Chairmen of the Bureau of the COMCEC to represent the Arab, Asian and African Regions, respectively, and Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Rapporteur, to assume their posts as of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC; as a result of the election, the composition of the Follow-up Committee is as follows;

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



**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**OIC/ICAM-6/2011/FINAL**

**RESOLUTION**

**OF**

**THE SIXTH OIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

**ON**

**FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**  
**3-6 OCTOBER 2011**

**RESOLUTION  
ON  
FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN OIC MEMBER STATES**

*The Sixth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 3 to 6 October 2011 (6-9 Dhu'l-Qi'dah 1432),*

**Recalling** the provisions of the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation,

**Bearing in mind** the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 7-8 December 2005,

**Recalling** the decision of the COMCEC Economic Summit held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, in 2009 to revitalize the cooperation in the area of agriculture,

**Reaffirming** the Resolution on Promoting Food Security and Agricultural development in OIC Member States adopted by the Fifth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan, from 26 to 28 October 2010,

**Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 09- 13 May 2011,

**Recalling** the Resolution OIC/38-CFM/ECO/Res. on Economic Affairs adopted by the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 28-30 June 2011,

**Expressing its grave concern** about the unremitting spate of food insecurity and its negative social consequences in OIC Member States arising from rising cost of food, low agricultural productivity and investments, low capacity utilization, and natural disaster,

**Recalling** the various recommendations of the Expert Group Meetings on the urgent steps to be taken towards addressing the challenges of food insecurity and its effects on the livelihood of majority of the peoples in OIC Member States,

**Drawing** inspiration from the presentations made by participants on their national experiences and success stories,

**Having noted** the presentations made by the FAO on the South-South Cooperation scheme, as well as Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for the Islamic Countries (SESRIC) on intra-OIC cooperation on Food Security and Agricultural Development,

## Annex - 2

**Commending** the outgoing Chairman for his dedication and commitment and **expressing** support for the declared vision of the in-coming Chairman, aimed at reinvigorating intra-OIC cooperation in the area of agriculture, rural development and food security,

**Expressing** appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Sixth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development,

**Also expressing** appreciation to the OIC Secretary General for his expeditious actions on the implementation of the Conference resolutions,

1. **Notes with appreciation** the work carried out by the COMCEC Task Force on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security with regard to the collation of national data and inventories to be used among others in the preparation of a framework document for cooperation and called on the member states to extend full support to the activities of the Task Force and SESRIC in this regard.
2. **Expresses its appreciation to** the members of the COMCEC Task Force on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security, namely OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, Islamic Development Bank, and Food and Agriculture Organization, for their valuable efforts and financial assistance to the work of the Task Force,
3. **Reiterates the need for** the OIC Member States to allocate more resources from their national budgets to agricultural development and food security programmes in line with the resolution of the Fifth Ministerial Conference;
4. **Commends** the OIC Member States, which have established capacity building programmes for OIC countries and special funds for food security programmes, and **urges** other countries to establish similar programmes within the framework of OIC South-South Cooperation;
5. **Calls on** the member states to consider the requests of some member states for technical cooperation in various sub sectors of agriculture such as effective utilization of water, modern techniques on animal breeding, conservation agriculture.
6. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to extend technical cooperation with the Member States on training and research and development;
7. **Recommends** the need for enhancing joint investment opportunities between member states through conducting inventory studies, exploring potentials, exchange of know-how and enhancing the transparency of information, in the area of agriculture and food security.
8. **Also recommends** the need for the establishment of safety nets, risk management mechanisms, agricultural insurance systems, the measures to facilitate market access for the products of smallholders and to mitigate the effects of price volatilities;



9. **Urges** OIC Member States to continue to support cross-border and regional projects aimed at enhancing intra-OIC cooperation in the area of agriculture, rural development and food security;
10. **Supports** the proposal by the Republic of Kazakhstan on the establishment of an OIC Food Security Office in Kazakhstan;
11. **Calls upon the** Public and Private Companies operating in the field of Agri-Business Industry in the OIC Member States to actively participate in fairs and exhibitions in order to improve intra OIC trade including the 5<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Agri-Business Industries in the OIC Member States to be held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 20-23 May 2012;
12. **Commends** the on-going regional and international partnerships for the implementation of Food Security Programmes in OIC Member States;
13. **Also Commends** the tripartite agreement initiative established by IDB, FAO and other development partners, aimed at intensifying South- South cooperation within the OIC and the framework co-financing agreement for US\$ 1.5 billion signed between IDB and IFAD;
14. **Expresses** appreciation for the offer by the Government of the Republic of Senegal to host the Seventh Session of the Conference in December 2012; and
15. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a report thereon to the Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development.

**Issued in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey,  
6 October 2011 (9 Dhu'l-Qi'dah 1432)**



**BACKGROUND NOTES**  
**ON ESTABLISHMENT OF**  
**AN OIC FOOD SECURITY INSTITUTION IN KAZAKHSTAN**

The proposal by Kazakhstan on the establishment of an OIC Food Security institution was considered and adopted by the Sixth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, which was held in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey, on 3-6 October 2011; the 27th Session of the COMCEC, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 17-20 October 2011; the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC CFM, which was held in Djibouti on 15-17 November 2012; and the 12<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit held in Cairo, Egypt on 2-7 February 2013.

2. In addition, the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC CFM requested the OIC Secretary General to convene in consultation with member states, an Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to finalize its constituent instrument.

3. Consequently, the above mentioned EGM was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 11-13 June 2013. The EGM, which was attended by more than 60 experts from 30 OIC member states, finalized the Draft Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security. The attached Report of the EGM, including the Draft Statute have been duly circulated to OIC member states.

4. The Draft Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security consists of a preamble and 27 articles grouped into 4 chapters. Chapter I (Articles 1-8) describes the general provisions such as definitions, headquarters, legal status, aims and objectives, and membership criteria. Chapter II (Articles 9-16) describes the organs of the Organisation. Chapter III (Articles 17-20) deals with budget and financial resources of the Organisation. Chapter IV (Articles 21-27) provides for signing, ratification, amendment and interpretation of the Statute.

5. Accordingly and in line with the relevant resolution adopted at 39<sup>th</sup> CFM, the General Secretariat hereby submits the Draft Statute for consideration and adoption.

**OIC General Secretariat,  
22 June 2013**

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
ORGANISATION DE COOPERATION ISLAMIQUE  
SECRETARIAT GENERAL



No. OIC- ECO-04/C-04/ 003608

Jeddah: 18 JUN 2013

The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation presents its compliments to all Member States and has the honour to inform that pursuant to the Resolution No.3/39-E of the 39th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC held in the Republic of Djibouti on 15-17 November 2012, the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to finalize the constituent instrument of the approved OIC Food Security institution in Kazakhstan was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 11-13 June 2013.

In view of the foregoing, the General Secretariat wishes to forward herewith the Report of the above mentioned EGM along with the Draft Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security for kind information of the esteemed Member States.

The General Secretariat also wishes to inform that the Report of the said EGM and the Draft Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security will be submitted for the consideration of the 36th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs (ICECS), which will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 30 June - 2 July 2013.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Member States the assurances of its highest consideration. HD

*Enclosure: As above mentioned*



**To: All Member States of the  
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation**

**Copy: Relevant Institutions of the OIC:**

- SESRIC;
- ICDT;
- IDB Group;
- ICCIA.



**REPORT**

**OF**

**THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING**

**ON**

**FINALIZATION OF THE STATUTE OF**

**ISLAMIC ORGANISATION FOR FOOD SECURITY**

**ASTANA, REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**  
**11-13 JUNE, 2013**

**REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON  
FINALIZATION OF THE STATUTE OF ISLAMIC ORGANISATION FOR FOOD  
SECURITY IN ASTANA, REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, 11-13 JUNE, 2013**

Upon the kind invitation of the Government of Kazakhstan and pursuant to the decisions of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC CFM, which was held in Djibouti on 15-17 November 2012, and the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of Islamic Summit, which took place in Cairo, Egypt on 2-7 February 2013, the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to finalize the constituent instrument of the approved OIC Food Security institution in Kazakhstan was held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 11-13 June 2013.

**ATTENDANCE**

2. The EGM was attended by the experts from the following OIC member states: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina-Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, UAE and Yemen. The meeting also was attended by the representatives of OIC institutions: General Secretariat, SESRIC, ICDDT and IDB, as well as regional and international organizations, namely ECO and IFAD.

**OPENING CEREMONY**

3. Following a recitation from the Holy Quran, H.E. Mr. Muslim Umiryayev, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan, in his welcoming remarks, underscored the importance of the meeting in devising strategies of the OIC member states to tackle the challenges in the domain of agriculture and food security, as well as building a more prosperous future for Muslim nations. He briefed the participants on the agricultural potentials of Kazakhstan, emphasizing his country's keenness in promoting rewarding intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of food security.

4. Thereafter, the Meeting unanimously elected the members of the Bureau as follows:

Chairman:	Republic of Djibouti
Vice Chairman:	State of Palestine
Vice Chairman:	Republic of Gabon
Vice Chairman:	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Rapporteur:	Republic of Kazakhstan

5. H.E. Amb. Dyaeddine Said Bamakhrama, Permanent Representative of Djibouti to OIC, addressed the meeting in his capacity as the Chairman and emphasized the importance of establishing a specialized OIC institution dealing with issues related to agricultural development and enhancing food security in OIC countries.

6. In his statement, H.E. Mr. Kairat Sarybay, Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, stated that the initiative of Kazakhstan was aimed at transforming the current challenges facing

the Muslim Ummah into opportunities through fostering the culture of competitiveness and assisting OIC member states to realize their full potentials in the food security sector. He observed that a significant share of work on the future actions by OIC member states should be devoted to capacity building, access to finance, access to markets and technology transfer. In this regard, he called on interested member states to sign and ratify the Statute of the proposed institution at the earliest convenience, including a possibility of its signing during the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC CFM in Guinea in November 2013.

7. While delivering the message of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the Secretary General of the OIC, Amb. Hameed A. Opeloyeru, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, emphasized the urgent need to address the twin institutional and operational gaps in the cooperation framework of OIC countries in domain of agriculture, rural development and food security. Observing that the proposed institution should qualitatively complement what already obtains within the global food security system, the Secretary General urged the meeting to develop and prioritize those aspects in which OIC had comparative advantages.

### **WORKING SESSIONS**

8. The Meeting adopted its Agenda and Work Programme as contained in Annex – I.

### **CONSIDERATION AND FINALIZATION OF THE DRAFT STATUTE**

9. The Meeting listed to the background report presented by the OIC General Secretariat on the extent of the work so far accomplished towards establishing an OIC Food Security institution, in particular the compilation of the views of OIC member states on the initial draft constituent instrument of the proposed institution and subsequent elaboration of the harmonized text of the constituent instrument in the form of Draft Statute of the proposed institution.

10. The meeting exhaustively examined the Draft Statute and made several amendments to its provisions. It, thereafter, adopted the Statute of the new institution as attached in Annex II and recommended the document for consideration and adoption by the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC. The meeting adopted a suitable name for the institution as: Islamic Organisation for Food Security.

11. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the offer by the Government of Kazakhstan to cover the running cost of the Secretariat of the Organization for the next three years with effect from the entry into force of the Statute.

12. The Meeting also took note of the designation by the Government of Kazakhstan of a national coordinator to liaise with OIC member states and the General Secretariat of the OIC on issues relating to the establishment of the proposed Organisation.

13. The Meeting also recommended the need for the Organization to develop detailed Personnel Regulations; Financial Regulations; and Rules of Procedure to guide its over-all functions, including the elaboration of necessary modalities and guidelines for the operationalisation of the proposed food security reserves.

## Annex - 3

14. The Meeting took note of the provisions of the Resolution No. 3/39-E adopted by the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC CFM held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012, regarding the offer of the Republic of Djibouti to host a Center for OIC Food Security Reserve for East, Central, Southern and Horn of Africa in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti.

15. The Sudanese delegation drew attention of the Meeting to the proposal of H. E. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan at the Fifth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, held in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, on 26-28 October 2010 on the creation of an OIC food security mechanism, emphasizing that the outcome of the present Meeting is in accord with the said proposal.

### **VOTE OF THANKS**

16. The Meeting expressed its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Republic of Kazakhstan for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended to all experts and for the excellent arrangements made for the success of the meeting. The Meeting also expressed appreciation to the OIC Secretary General and his entire staff for invaluable support for the work of the EGM.

**Astana, Kazakhstan,  
13 June 2013**



**DRAFT STATUTE  
OF  
ISLAMIC ORGANISATION FOR FOOD SECURITY**



**DRAFT STATUTE  
OF ISLAMIC ORGANISATION FOR FOOD SECURITY**

**PREAMBLE**

The Governments of the member states of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Parties to this Statute,

*Inspired* by the provisions of the OIC Charter on strengthening the bonds of unity, cooperation and solidarity among the peoples of OIC member states for the sake of promoting their welfare, prosperity and socio-economic development,

*Pursuant* to Resolution No. 3/39-E on Establishment of OIC Food Security Institution in Kazakhstan adopted by the Thirty Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti on 15-17 November 2012,

*Recognizing* the need to address the major food security problems facing their member states, particularly the spate of hunger, malnutrition, famine, widespread poverty, growing population, food shortage, desertification, deforestation, salinity and under utilization of existing potentials,

*Desirous* of creating a collective platform to promote food security, rural and agricultural development in a sustainable manner through the mobilization of all available resources within their countries, exchange of best practices and experiences, promotion of investment and transfer of appropriate technologies,

Do hereby lay the present Statute:

**CHAPTER I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1: Definitions**

In the present Statute, the following terms shall have the meanings set opposite each one of them:

1. The Organisation means: Islamic Organisation for Food Security.

## Annex - 3

2. The General Assembly means: the General Assembly of Islamic Organisation for Food Security.
3. The Executive Board means: the Executive Board of Islamic Organisation for Food Security.
4. The Secretariat means: the Secretariat of Islamic Organisation for Food Security.
5. The Chairman means: the Chairman of Islamic Organisation for Food Security.
6. The Director General means: the Director General of Islamic Organisation for Food Security.
7. The OIC means: Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.
8. The member states means: OIC member states, which have acceded to Islamic Organisation for Food Security in line with the Article 5 of this Statute.
9. The CFM means: OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.
10. The Islamic Summit Conference means: Summit of Kings and Heads of State and Government of OIC member states.
11. Accredited Representative means: any person empowered by the authorities of the state to sign the Statute.
12. Food means: any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended for human consumption.
13. Food security means: a condition when all people, at all times, have physical, social, economic and financial access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

## **Article 2: Headquarters**

1. The Headquarters of the Organisation shall be located in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan. The host country shall provide all necessary facilities for its smooth functioning, including diplomatic immunities and privileges.
2. The Organisation may, in accordance with a General Assembly resolution and upon a proposal from the Executive Board, establish in any other country, centres, offices or institutions which are subsidiary to it or are under its supervision.

## **Article 3: Legal Status**

1. The Organisation shall be a specialized institution of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, as defined by Article 24 of the OIC Charter.
2. The Organisation shall enjoy the status of fully-fledged legal entity as an international organisation, using its full legal capacity to exercise its functions and fulfill its objectives as defined in this Statute.
3. The immunities and privileges including the judicial immunity and tax exemption granted to any subsidiary offices, pursuant to Article 2 para 2 should be determined by a bilateral agreement between the Organisation and the concerned host country.

## **Article 4: Aims and Objectives of the Organisation**

1. The aims and objectives of the Organisation shall be to:
  - (a) provide expertise and technical know-how to member states on the various aspects of sustainable agriculture, rural development, food security, and biotechnology including addressing the problems posed by desertification, deforestation, erosion and salinity as well as providing social safety nets;
  - (b) assess and monitor, in coordination with member states, the food security situation in member states, in order to determine and make necessary emergency and humanitarian assistance, including the creation of food security reserves;
  - (c) mobilize and manage financial and agricultural resources for developing agriculture and enhancing the food security in member states; and

## Annex - 3

- (d) coordinate, formulate and implement common agricultural policies, including exchange and transfer of appropriate technology and public food management system.
2. To attain the above objectives, the Organisation shall endeavor to perform the following functions:
- (a) collect, study, interpret and disseminate information on nutrition, food and agriculture;
  - (b) conduct and supervise scientific, technological, social and economic research on nutrition, food and agriculture;
  - (c) exchange of information, data, researches and studies on sustainable agricultural development, biotechnology and production practices models, including irrigation, seed production, pesticides and agronomic management;
  - (d) promote modernization of agricultural processes and institutional capacity building;
  - (e) pursue mobilization and management of resources for the sustainable development of agriculture and food security of the member states;
  - (f) stimulate intra-OIC investment in agriculture and food security, through micro-finance projects, extension facilities, cross-border projects and increased access to Islamic financial products;
  - (g) develop and implement appropriate national and regional projects, international programs, legal and other regulations in area of food security for the realization of the objectives of the Organisation;
  - (h) develop and implement common agricultural policies;
  - (i) participate in humanitarian programs upon relevant requests of the OIC ;
  - (j) create necessary regional mechanisms for providing necessary assistance in case of food emergencies in member states, resulting from food shortages, natural and artificial calamities, disaster, drought and similar conditions taking into account peculiarities of each member state;
  - (k) cooperate with other international and regional organizations as stipulated in Article 7;
  - (l) implement the OIC resolutions and recommendations in this regard as may be conveyed through the Islamic Summit Conferences, CFMs and OIC

Ministerial Conferences on Food Security and Agricultural Development;  
and

- (m) adopt all necessary and relevant measures to implement the objectives of the Organisation.

#### **Article 5: Membership of the Organisation**

1. Every member state of the OIC may become a member of the Organisation upon signing the Statute, and after it has completed the membership legal formalities, in accordance with its national legislation, and informed in writing the Secretariat of the Organisation. A state, which is not a member, or is an observer of the OIC, cannot become a member of the Organisation.

2. A member state or observer of the OIC, which is not member of the Organisation, may apply for the status of observer at the Organisation. Regional and international organisations may enjoy the status of observer, after submitting a request to, and upon the approval of, the General Assembly.

3. Only the member states of the Organisation shall have the right to vote at the General Assembly. Decisions shall be taken by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the decision shall be made by a majority of two thirds of the member states present and voting.

4. The nature and scope of rights and responsibilities of the member states shall be defined by the present Statute as well as rules and regulations of the Organisation.

#### **Article 6: Reports by the Member States**

1. All member states should periodically send to the Executive Board and the Secretariat texts of laws and regulations on matters falling within the mandate of the Organisation, including statistical, technical and other information published or otherwise issued or made available by government bodies except information protected by national legislation.

2. The General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Secretariat may request member states to present other information, reports or documents on matters falling within the mandate of the Organisation.

**Article 7: Relations between the Organisation and Other Organisations**

1. The Organisation shall maintain close cooperation with all OIC organs in order to strengthen collaboration and cooperation among them and to improve coherence and synergy in the implementation of OIC policies and programs.
2. The Organisation shall be guided by the general objectives of the OIC as may be provided for in the decisions of Islamic Summit Conferences and CFMs.
3. The Organisation shall, subject to General Assembly approval and consistent with OIC aims and objectives, establish closer collaboration with regional and international organisations with common membership with OIC to help achieve its aims and objectives. Similarly, it shall also establish closer collaboration with any other governmental or non-governmental regional and international organisations concerned with agriculture, rural development and food security.

**Article 8: Conventions and Agreements**

1. The General Assembly shall, subject to the decision of two-thirds of its votes, adopt and submit to the member states conventions and agreements in area of food and agriculture for their adoption.
2. For the purpose of para 1 above, conventions and agreements shall:
  - (a) contain provisions on entry into force including the number of approvals by the member states; and
  - (b) not incur any financial obligations for member states which are not parties to this Statute.
3. The General Assembly shall have the right to elaborate rules on consultations with governments and technical support for the preparation of conventions and agreements.

**CHAPTER II  
ORGANS OF THE ORGANISATION**

**Article 9: Organs of the Organisation**

The organs of the Organisation shall be:

- (a) The General Assembly;
- (b) The Executive Board; and
- (c) The Secretariat.

**Article 10: The General Assembly**

1. The General Assembly shall comprise Ministers responsible for matters within the mandate of the Organisation or their representatives, who are nominated by their respective member states. The General Assembly shall hold ordinary sessions once a year. Extraordinary sessions may be held, if necessary, at the request of five members, subject to the agreement of two-third members of the Organisation. Each member shall be entitled to one vote.

2. The powers and duties of the General Assembly shall be to:

- (a) elect the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen for a term of one year renewable once, taking into consideration the principle of equitable geographical distribution;
- (b) elect the Chairman and members of the Executive Board on the basis of equitable geographical representation;
- (c) draw up the general policy of the Organisation;
- (d) adopt the budget, establish and control the financial policy and the general work programme of the Organisation and methods for implementing this programme;
- (e) elect the Director General of the Organisation in conformity with Article 15 (2) of this Statute; and
- (f) adopt recommendations, resolutions and reports of the General Assembly sessions as well as its Rules of Procedure.

**Article 11:** The Chairman of the General Assembly shall assume the following responsibilities:

1. The Chairman shall convene, conduct and preside over the sessions of the Organisation.
2. The Chairman will represent the Organisation between its sessions.
3. The Chairman may be assisted by representatives of the member states for carrying out the tasks assigned to him.
4. The Chairman may delegate whatever powers he deems fit to the Vice-Chairman.
5. In case the Office of Chairman temporary falls vacant for any reason, the Vice-Chairman shall assume his functions during the period of absence of the Chairman.

**Article 12: The Executive Board**

1. The Executive Board shall be composed of 8 members, including the Chairman. Members are elected by the General Assembly based on equitable geographical distribution. The country hosting the headquarters of the Organisation shall be a permanent member, while one non-voting post shall be allocated to the Director General. Members of the Executive Board are elected for a period of 3 years, renewable once. A member state may decide to change its representative on the Executive Board as it deems fit.
2. The quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of two-third of the members and its resolutions shall be adopted by two-third majority of members.

**Article 13: Meetings of the Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall meet at least twice a year at the Headquarters of the Organisation or at any other venue as may be agreed. Extraordinary meetings of the Executive Board may be convened upon the request of the Chairman or a simple majority of its members when necessary.

**Article 14: Duties and Powers of the Executive Board**



## Annex - 3

1. The Executive Committee shall be responsible to the General Assembly. Its duties and powers are to:

- (a) ensure the efficient working of different organs of the Organisation in line with the general policy of the Organisation;
- (b) approve the general calendar of meetings (Sessions, Working Groups and Groups of Experts);
- (c) prepare the provisional agenda for the regular and extraordinary sessions in consultation with the member states and the Director General;
- (d) decide on the advisability of inviting to the sessions of the Organisation any person or organisation as expert or observer;
- (e) review the budget and financial statements of the Organisation, and to submit them to the General Assembly;
- (f) set up Specialized Committees as and when necessary and prepare their agenda, appoint their members and fix their duration of work;
- (g) submit detailed reports to the General Assembly on the activities of the organs of the Organisation;
- (h) supervise the activities of the Organisation and ensure that its duties are implemented in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly, decisions of the Executive Board and internal regulations;
- (i) conduct and supervise scientific, technological, social and economic research on nutrition, food and agriculture;
- (j) exchange information, data, researches and studies on sustainable agricultural development, biotechnology and production practices models, including irrigation, seed production, pesticides and agronomic management;
- (k) promote modernization of agricultural processes and institutional capacity building;

- (l) pursue mobilization and management of financial and agricultural resources for the sustainable development of agriculture and food security of the member states;
- (m) stimulate intra-OIC investment in agriculture and food security through micro-finance projects, extension facilities, cross-border projects and increased access to Islamic financial products; and
- (n) develop and implement appropriate national and regional projects, international programs, legal and other regulations in area of food and nutrition security for the realization of the objectives of the Organisation.

**Article 15: The Secretariat**

1. The Secretariat shall comprise a Director General and official staff working in the permanent Headquarters and in such other offices as may be established. The Director General shall determine the official list of the staff of the Organisation.
2. The Director General shall be appointed by the General Assembly for a period of four years, renewable once only. The Director General shall be appointed from among the candidates nominated by member states in accordance with the principles of equal opportunity for all member states with due consideration to competence, integrity and experience.
3. The Director General shall be accountable to the Executive Board and General Assembly, and shall have direct authority over the entire staff of the Secretariat.
4. If the office of the Director General becomes vacant for more than ninety (90) days before the end of his/her term, the General Assembly shall appoint a successor for the remaining term.

**Article 16: The Functions of Director General**

1. In addition to any other functions as may be approved by the Executive Board and General Assembly, the Director General shall:

- (a) appoint the staff of the Secretariat and see to the application of the provisions of the Personnel Regulations;
- (b) supervise the activities of the Secretariat;
- (c) prepare an annual report on the budget and the closing account;
- (d) submit an annual report on the activities of the Secretariat to the Executive Board;
- (e) be responsible for the funds of the Organisation and its expenditure in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Rules of the Organisation;
- (f) collect, study, interpret and disseminate information on nutrition, food and agriculture;
- (g) provide necessary humanitarian assistance, and participate in humanitarian programs upon relevant requests by the OIC; and
- (h) create necessary regional mechanisms for addressing food emergencies in member states, resulting from food shortages, natural and artificial calamities, disasters, drought and similar conditions.

### **CHAPTER III BUDGET AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

#### **Article 17: Budget**

1. The budget shall be prepared for three years and shall become effective each year as of January 1<sup>st</sup> up to the end of December of the same year. It shall be executed after its adoption by the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulations of the Organisation.

2. The Director General shall prepare an annual report on the budget and the closing account, which he shall submit to the Executive Board at its following session subsequent to the end of the financial year. The report on the financial year shall include his proposals on the implementation of the budget as well as his observations on the closing account.

**Article 18: Financial Resources**

1. The financial resources of the Organisation shall include:
  - (a) annual assessed contributions received by the Organisation from member states as approved by the General Assembly;
  - (b) donations and voluntary contributions from the member states, non-member states, institutions and partners, provided that donations from all external sources are not incompatible with the objectives and regulations of the Organisation;
  - (c) fund-raising from member states and international organisations for special projects of the Organisation;
  - (d) proceeds of the sales of publications, products, services relating to the Organisation's field of competence; and
  - (e) member states are expected to contribute to the Budget in accordance with the scale of assessment in use at the OIC or any other formula as may be approved by the General Assembly.

**Article 19: Expenditures**

1. The expenditures of the Organisation incurred for such purposes as follows:
  - (a) running of the Secretariat and other approved offices of the Organisation, including obligations towards permanent and commissioned staff;
  - (b) commitments resulting from projects undertaken jointly with governmental or non-governmental partners;
  - (c) subsidies and assistance to institutions and organisations under its supervision; and
  - (d) commitments resulting from previous contracts, resolutions or programmes of a binding nature for the Organisation.

**Article 20: Accounts**

1. The Director General shall prepare the annual report on the budget and submit it to the Executive Board upon completion of the financial year. The Executive Board shall prepare the final annual report on the budget and submit it to the General Assembly during its regular session. The Executive Board shall appoint a Financial Control Committee made up of representatives from five member states, for a three-year period and on a rotational basis, to audit the accounts of the Organisation, and to ensure sound management of Organisation's Permanent Headquarters and its offices. The Committee may seek assistance of experts in related fields, if need be.
2. The Financial Control Committee shall have the right to examine all the relevant books and records and to request the Executive Board, the Director General or the officials of the Organisation to provide any information it deems necessary for the performance of its duties. Accounts shall be audited by the Financial Control Committee on an annual basis so as to verify the accuracy of the budget and the accounts.
3. The Financial Control Committee shall submit its report to the Director General, who shall refer it to the Executive Board with his observations thereon. The Executive Board shall submit the report to the General Assembly at its following session.

#### **CHAPTER IV FINAL PROVISIONS**

##### **Article 21: Entry into force**

1. The Statute shall be open for signature of OIC member states following its adoption by the Islamic Summit Conference or CFM. It shall be applied provisionally upon signing by at least ten (10) OIC member states through their accredited representatives, and definitively enter into force upon the 30<sup>th</sup> day from the date of submission of the 10<sup>th</sup> instrument of ratification or acceptance. For any member state which signs, ratifies or accepts this Statute after its entry into force, this Statute shall enter into force on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date when an instrument of ratification or acceptance is submitted.
2. The instruments of ratification or acceptance of this Statute shall be deposited at the General Secretariat of the OIC.

3. The Secretary General of the OIC shall inform all member states of the receipt of required number of instruments of ratification or acceptance.
4. The original of the Statute in a single copy in the Arabic, English and French languages shall be deposited at the General Secretariat of the OIC. The General Secretariat of the OIC shall send certified copies of this Statute to all the signatories.

#### **Article 22: Amendment of the Statute**

1. The Statute may be amended by the General Assembly upon approval by two-thirds majority votes of the member states. However, amendments approved by the General Assembly resulting in basic changes in the objectives of the Organisation or in new obligations for member states, can only take effect upon ratification by two-thirds of the member states.
2. An amendment that shall not incur new obligations for the member states shall enter into force immediately, unless the resolution on adoption of the amendment shall state otherwise. Amendments setting new obligations shall enter into force for each member state adopting them after approval of two-thirds of the member states and for other member states they shall enter into force after they adopt them.
3. Proposals to amend the Statute shall be initiated by a member state and delivered to the Chairman. The Chairman shall immediately notify the member states about all proposals to amend the Statute.
4. No proposal to amend the Statute shall be included in the agenda of the session of the General Assembly if relevant notification is sent by the Chairman to the member states less than 120 days before the session.

#### **Article 23: Interpretation**

Any question or dispute concerning the interpretation of this Statute shall be referred for determination to the General Assembly of the Organisation. The General Assembly shall decide on such disputes by two-thirds majority votes of the member states.

#### **Article 24: Withdrawal**

1. Any member state shall have the right to withdraw from the Organisation through a notice directed to the Chairman one year before its withdrawal and conveyed to all member states.
2. The State seeking withdrawal shall meet its financial obligations up to the end of the financial year in which it presents its withdrawal request, and shall pay to the Organisation all other financial obligations it owes.
3. If a member state fails to implement its obligations under this Statute, the General Assembly shall have the right to suspend its membership or within one year from the date of suspension re-establish its membership.
4. The suspended member state shall lose all rights defined by this Statute but keep all obligations.

**Article 25: Dissolution**

1. The Organisation shall not be dissolved or merged with another institution except by a decision of four-fifth majority of the General Assembly at an extraordinary session held in accordance with Article 10 of this Statute.
2. The assets and liabilities of the Organisation, after dissolution, shall be transferred to the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

**Article 26: The text of the Statute**

The Arabic, English and French texts of this Statute shall be regarded as equally authentic.

**Article 27: Official Languages**

The official languages of the Organisation shall be Arabic, English and French.

***Draft Statute adopted by the OIC-EGM held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 11-13 June 2013***



*OIC/ICLM/2013/RES/FINAL*

Original: *English*

**RESOLUTION**  
**ON THE COOPERATION ON**  
**LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND**  
**SOCIAL PROTECTION AMONG**  
**THE OIC MEMBER STATES**  
**ADOPTED BY**  
**THE SECOND ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF**  
**LABOUR MINISTERS**

*“Decent Work for Sustainable Social Welfare”*

**BAKU, REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**  
**15-16 JUMADA II 1434H**  
**25-26 APRIL 2013**



**RESOLUTION**

**on**

**The Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection  
Among the OIC Member States**

*The Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, held from 15 to 16 Jumada II 1434H (25-26 April, 2013), in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.*

Recalling the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States of the OIC, adopted by the 8<sup>th</sup> ICFM, held in Tripoli, Libya, on 16-22 May 1977,

Bearing in mind the OIC Ten Year Programme Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Summit, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in December 2005,

Re-affirming the Conclusions of the First Meeting of Labour Ministers of OIC Member States, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 10 September 2011,

Expressing appreciation to the OIC Secretary General for his visionary statement and overall efforts in scaling-up intra-OIC cooperation on labour matters,

Commending the efforts of Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in the implementation of the various capacity building programmes within the framework of the OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET); OIC Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSHCaB); and OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET),

Also expressing appreciation to the SESRIC, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and D-8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation, for their comprehensive presentations on Occupational Safety and Health; Reducing Unemployment; International Law on Migration; and the D-8 perspective on Foreign Migrant Labour respectively,

Taking note of the activities of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) towards the development of youth entrepreneurship as well as its efforts to address the problem of youth unemployment in the OIC countries, through the establishment of the Islamic Countries Young Entrepreneurs Network (ICYEN),

Having considered the interventions on the experiences and best practices in their member states,

1. **Approves** the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection (hereinafter referred to as the Framework), and **calls upon**

the OIC Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to ensure its effective implementation;

2. **Decides** to set up a Steering Committee charged with the implementation of the said Framework;
3. **Highly values** the proposal of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to establish an OIC Labour Centre, and **requests** the Secretary General to expedite the preparation of the necessary studies, given the urgent need for such an institution in view of the multiple problems faced by member states in the area of labour;
4. **Endorses** the proposal of the Republic of Turkey to establish a Forum for public employment institutions among member states to promote the establishment of appropriate networks among their relevant national focal points;
5. **Calls** upon member states to actively participate in the various OIC programmes within the framework of OIC-VET Programme, and to designate their respective focal points for these programmes, under the aegis of SESRIC, in particular; the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET);
6. **Invites** member states and relevant OIC institutions such as IDB and ICCIA to closely work with ICYF-DC for the realization of the projects under ICYEN and the establishment of the Technical Vocational Education Center initiated by the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF-DC;
7. **Underscores** the need to accord priority to the State of Palestine in all OIC activities, especially in the field of manpower training as well as support for the Palestinian Employment Fund;
8. **Invites** the IDB to expand its Youth Employment Support (YES) programme in elaboration of the second phase of the Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA);
9. **Expresses** the desire to coordinate their national positions through regular meetings on the sidelines of other international conferences on labour;
10. **Expresses** its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the successful conclusion of the Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers;

11. **Also expresses its appreciation** to the Government of Indonesia for offering to host the Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers in 2015; and
12. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this Resolution.

**Baku, Azerbaijan, 26 April 2013**

**OIC/2-ICLM/2013/BAKU DEC./FINAL**

**BAKU DECLARATION**

**TO BE ADOPTED BY THE SECOND SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC  
CONFERENCE OF  
LABOUR MINISTERS**

**BAKU, REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

**25-26 April 2013/15-16 JUMADA II, 1434H**

We, the Ministers in charge of Labour of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the heads of delegation participating in the Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 25-26 April 2013,

Inspired by the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action, adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, on 7-8 December 2005,

Underlining the Cairo Final Communiqué of the twelfth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Cairo, Egypt, on 6 and 7 February 2013, General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among member states of the OIC adopted by the 8<sup>th</sup> ICFM, held in Tripoli, Libya, in May 1977, as well as the relevant resolutions and declarations adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers aimed at strengthening cooperation among the Member States in the area of labour, employment and social protection,

Noting conclusions of the First Meeting of Labour Ministers of OIC Member States, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 10 September 2011,

Being committed to pursue policy of openness and close cooperation with the world's relevant international organizations operating in the field of labour, employment and social protection, such as International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Arab Labour Organisation,

Reiterating that Islam is a religion of peace and advocates such principles as appreciation of human values, tolerance with regard to religion and races and peaceful coexistence of all nations,

Recognizing that the present challenges and accelerating changes call for the OIC to intensify its efforts and strengthen its capacity to stimulate cooperation among the Member States in the area of labour, employment and social protection,

Believing that decent work, productive employment and safe work places are important elements to ensuring the sustainability of societies and combating poverty,

Emphasizing the importance of development of sound social protection system that can serve as an efficient mean for poverty eradication and achievement of Millennium Development Goals by the Member States,

Mindful that terrorism, conflicts, territorial occupation, natural disasters, epidemics and economic crises seriously harm the economic and social development of the Member States,

Hereby decide to urge member states to:

1. establish a sustainable social protection system by developing effective social programmes, aimed at protecting the welfare of the most vulnerable people of OIC member states;
2. create a comprehensive and accessible social protection system that ensures protection of national interests of OIC member states;
3. implement the proposal of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to establish an OIC Labour Centre, and request the Secretary General to expedite the preparation of the necessary studies, given the urgent need for such an institution in view of the multiple problems faced by member states in the area of labour;
4. also create a favourable environment for the elaboration of projects of, intra- and inter-regional scope through, inter alia, wide dissemination of necessary information and broader participation by relevant OIC and international financial institutions as well as the private sector, thereby ensuring their effective implementation;
5. strengthen cooperation and expertise, aimed at supporting efforts by individual member states for the promotion of labour, employment and social protection;
6. address demographic challenges by developing relevant social protection policies, aimed at increasing participation of women, youth, migrants and their families;
7. establish networks among relevant institutions of member states and ensure exchange of experiences and best practices among them to

- promote development of skilled and competitive labour forces and occupational standards;
8. increase participation in elaboration and implementation of employment, occupational safety and health and social protection policies at the international level;
  9. develop a good governance system in the appropriate fields to combat poverty and unemployment;
  10. increase cooperation for innovative approaches and methods by introduction of active labour market and social assistance programs to accelerate alleviation of poverty in OIC member states;
  11. creates and develop a sustainable protection system for the most vulnerable and the least protected migrant workers residing in the respective OIC member states;
  12. condemn any manifestation of terrorism and aggressive separatism and stress the importance of expeditious resolution of conflicts, all of which have detrimental impact on social welfare and on the exercise of peoples' social rights to employment , in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, particularly those related to the territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of a state;
  13. also condemn the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and acts of aggression against the Palestinian people, particularly those in Al-Quds Al-Sherif, the prisoners and the refugees; and
  14. strongly condemn the aggression of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan that entailed occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other seven administrative districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan and led to destruction of thousands of industrial and agricultural enterprises and loss of hundreds of thousands jobs in the Republic of Azerbaijan; express concern over the plight of more than one million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons expelled by Armenia; and demand immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

**Issued at Baku, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013**



Original: English

*OIC/ICLM/FW/LABOUR/2013/FINAL*

**OIC FRAMEWORK  
FOR COOPERATION ON  
LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND  
SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**OIC FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION ON  
LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The need to address the developmental challenges in OIC member states has brought to the fore the importance of human capacity development and the necessity to address related labour market issues such as youth and women employment, entrepreneurship, and social inclusion. The recent global economic and financial crises have adversely affected the labour markets in OIC Member Countries and a significant number of job losses were registered in many OIC countries, especially in those which their economies are heavily depending on industrial exports.

2. Pursuant to the commitments the OIC member states as provided in the OIC Charter, the General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation (1977) and the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) aimed at fostering cooperation for exchange of expertise and manpower and promoting transfer of knowledge, experiences and best practices. It is also aimed at conducting joint action and training programmes in these areas with a view to generating effective and efficient improvements in labour markets in the OIC member states, thereby reducing unemployment, increasing labour productivity, and improving the state of occupational health and safety.

3. According to the latest available data, in OIC member states, the average labour force participation rate of people between 15-64 years old stood at 60.4% compared to the world average of 64.8%, the average of the developing countries of 65.6%, and the average of high income countries of 61.0% average. While the average rate of male labour force participation in OIC member countries (78.9%) is comparable to the 77.7% of the world, 79.5% of the developing countries and 69.9% of the high income countries, their performance in terms of female labour force participation rate remained significantly low; at a level of 41.6%, compared to the world average of 51.9%. Youth labour force participation rate also remained low at 32.8%, compared to the world average of 39.8%, 41.9% of the other developing countries and 48.4% of the high income countries.

4. Given the comparatively large segment of young population in OIC member countries, the negative implications of high rates of youth unemployment on the socio-economic development in many of these countries are clearly significant. Combined with high rates of unemployed women, this situation is still hampering the developmental efforts of many OIC member states, particularly the efforts of poverty alleviation. The root cause of many social phenomena could also be traced back to persistent high unemployment rates. Thus, it is clear that unemployment, especially among women and youth, remains one of the major economic and social challenges that face many OIC member states.



5. The causes of unemployment in OIC countries are attributed to some inadequacies in their labour markets such as the shortage of job opportunities, skills mismatch, low levels of productivity, macroeconomic instability, seasonality of jobs, disconnect between the demands of employers and the output of education systems, and low quality of vocational education and training systems. Due to various causes, tackling unemployment usually requires different approaches, especially among different age groups and gender, which include, among others, investing in upgrading skills. Low quality jobs prevent productivity improvements and hinder economic growth. Lack of experience and incompatible education, on the other hand, put labour force at a disadvantage state even when higher economic growth translates into overall increased employment opportunities.

6. Given this state of affairs and considering the importance of the role of the labour market in socio-economic development in the OIC member states, there is an urgent need for seeking ways and means to stimulate cooperation among the member states in this important area. Cooperation in labour and employment related issues in the OIC member states requires long term strategies to be translated into concrete actions that are likely to promote improvements in the level of employment and productivity with effective responses to the new requirements and demands of the labour market. This requires, among others, implementing communication strategies; identifying new tools, and effective functional and organizational models for public employment services, including upgrading of skills of public employment services personnel; exchange information on the initiatives to incorporate the fundamental principles and rights at work into educational curricula; exchange information and best practices on member states' regulations and codes, as well as strategies, policies and experiences in the area of occupational safety and health, and migration, with a view to promoting a culture of prevention and control of occupational hazards in the member states.

7. In this connection, the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection will facilitate collaboration and cooperation among the OIC member states through certain ways and means in the following six cooperation areas:

- a) Occupational Safety and Health;
- b) Reducing Unemployment;
- c) Workforce Capacity Development Projects;
- d) Migrant and Foreign Contract Labour;
- e) Labour Market Information Strategy; and
- f) Social Protection.

8. The member states should devote financial, technical and logistical resources for the implementation of the Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection and to facilitate the participation of their relevant national institutions in the implementation of this Framework. Relevant OIC institutions and those of other international and regional organizations should be also encouraged in taking role in the implementation process of the Framework.

## II. COOPERATION AREAS

### a) OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (OSH)

#### Objectives

9. Occupational safety and health was identified as an extremely important area for the developing countries in general and for the OIC member states in particular. Occupational safety and health is important for moral, legal, and financial reasons. Moral obligations would involve the protection of employee's lives and health. Legal reasons for occupational safety and health practices relate to the preventative, punitive and compensatory effects of laws that protect worker's safety and health. Occupational safety and health can also reduce employee injury and illness related costs, including medical care, sick leave and disability benefit costs. Occupational safety and health involves interactions among many subject areas, including occupational medicine, occupational hygiene, safety engineering, public health, industrial engineering, chemistry, health physics and occupational health psychology. The main focus in occupational safety and health is on three different objectives: (i) the maintenance and promotion of workers' health and working capacity; (ii) the improvement of working environment and work to become conducive to safety and health; (iii) protection against occupational risks; and (iv) development of work organizations and working cultures in a direction which supports health and safety at work and, in so doing, promotes a positive social climate and smooth operation, which, in turn, enhance productivity of the workers.

#### Programmes of Action

- Establishing network among occupational safety and health institutions in the OIC member countries (already done and hosted by SESRIC);
- Designing capacity building programmes for occupational safety and health (SESRIC already implementing such programmes);
- Establishing trainers' database in the field of occupational safety and health (SESRIC);
- Encouraging SESRIC, IDB Group and OSH Institutions for future cooperation in organising events in the field of occupational safety and health with the aim of exchanging knowledge and best practices among member states, including exchange of programmes by specialists in this area;
- Determination of potential international and intra-OIC partners;
- Adoption and enforcement of international OSH regulations and standards;
- Popularising occupational health and safety standards with regard to projects financed by relevant OIC institutions;

- Developing an information system on the main indicators of occupational safety and health, as well as exchange of information and expertise in OIC member states; and
- Elaborating practical guidelines for prevention of occupational risks.

### **Strengthening the Existing OIC Programmes**

#### **OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)**

10. Aims of the OIC-OSHNET is to create closer cooperation for sharing and exchanging knowledge and experience, and to conduct joint research projects and training programmes among the relevant institutions in the area of Occupational Safety and Health in OIC member states. The areas for future cooperation within the framework provided by this programme include designing capacity building programmes for occupational safety and health, establishing a network among occupational safety and health institutions in the OIC member states, establishing a trainers database in the field of occupational safety and health, and encourage SESRIC and OSH Institutions for future cooperation in organising related events in the field of occupational safety and health.

#### **b) REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT**

11. It is essential to enhance the employability of the workforce in the OIC member states through, inter alia, efficient use of labour market policies, which mainly should target both the employed and unemployed people.

#### **Objectives**

12. Unemployment is a major concern at both national and global levels. There is a significant risk that the jobs crisis will have long-lasting negative social and economic implications. The problem of youth unemployment is rapidly assuming dangerous proportions in many countries around the world, particularly in developing countries, including the OIC members, as their economies are unable to accommodate these numbers of youth.

13. Total global unemployment rate increased from 5.5 per cent in 2007 to 6.2 per cent in 2009 (ILO *Global Employment Trends 2011* report), and, despite the modest economic growth in 2010 and 2011, it was estimated at 6.1 and 6.0 per cent, respectively, which are still well above the 5.6 per cent rate in 2007. World adult unemployment rate (percentage of labour force age 24 and over) increased from 4.0 per cent in 2007 to 4.7 per cent in 2009, and declined in 2010 to 4.6.

14. This is while in some OIC countries the total unemployment rate remained at the 10 to 15 per cent levels, with drastically higher rates for youth and women unemployment, which are in some cases well above 20 per cent.

15. With respect to the situation in the OIC member countries, although labour market conditions vary significantly, the following issues are considered as common problems in many of these countries:

- i. A significant portion of the jobs available in many OIC countries are either low-quality informal jobs or formal jobs in the public sector;
- ii. There are weak linkages between education institutions, enterprises and employment offices;
- iii. Mismatch between composition of skills and capabilities and the needs of the labour market;
- iv. Difficulties for workers to move between jobs prevent them to find positions suitable to their skills; and
- v. Unemployment is persistently high for women and young people.

16. Unemployed people usually require more than skill upgrading as unemployment can take different forms and each form may require different responses. There is need for unemployment programmes aimed at reducing cyclical, frictional, seasonal, and structural unemployment. While some of these programmes aim at preparing people to match the skills required for existing jobs, others aim at creating jobs that will match the existing skills of workers.

### **Programmes of Action**

- Developing integrated programmes to support growth of SMEs and Islamic microfinance institutions with a view to improving self-employability and youth micro-entrepreneurs;
- Exchanging best practices of effective policies and programmes to address the challenges of informal employment, particularly as they relate to the incorporation of non-registered workers into formal employment;
- Exchanging views on options for scaling up the benefits and coverage of the Short and Long Term Programmes, including Job Guarantee option, based on research reports of international relevant experiences and other national expert views;
- Enhancing linkages between industries and education/training institutions to ensure that the critical skills required by the industries from the potential work force are taken into consideration in the education/training curriculum;

- Improving information transparency on employment statistics and opportunities;
- Monitoring labour figures and real market need of professions and competencies;
- Developing intra-OIC cooperation in the field of career counseling;
- Providing technical support and assistance to the youth to enable them realise their professional competences and setting up mechanisms for job-seekers to test and evaluate their skills and abilities;
- Encouraging member states to develop national strategies and work plans for youth employment, and to carry out studies impacting on employment policies;
- Developing professional and job-marketing materials as well as material creation techniques;
- Emphasising on adoption of special policies on SMEs in development strategy interconnected with entrepreneurial development strategy;
- Encouraging private sector's partnership in investment with an emphasis on SMEs access to financial resources;
- Promoting of supportive policies to transfer SMEs from informal sector to formal sector of economy;
- Exchanging of member states' experiences in the field of youth employment, development of small enterprises and preparing suitable ground for "Bench Marking";
- Promoting labour protection, which comprises decent conditions of work, including wages, working time and occupational safety and health, essential components of decent work; and
- Putting in place adequate measures to stimulate employment.

### **Strengthening the Existing OIC Programmes**

#### **Youth Employment Support (YES) Programme**

17. In February 2011, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) approved a Youth Employment Support (YES) Programme with an additional allocation of US\$ 250 million over and above the 2012 Operation Plan to support efforts to generate youth employment growth in the affected countries in the Arab region. The YES Programme will support Operations that will lead to (i) employment generation, (ii) building capacity for skills adjustment for jobs market, and (iii) designed within the Education for Employment (E4E) Programme, which is being coordinated by the IDB Group and the International Finance Center (IFC) of the World Bank. An additional feature of the US\$ 250 million YES

Programme is that borrowing costs will be on concessional terms reflecting the macroeconomic crisis conditions of the most affected Arab countries.

### SMEs Development Programme

18. The objective of SME Development Programme is to assist enterprises improve their competitiveness, sustain growth and market expansion, build entrepreneurial skills, and improve access to appropriate technologies and finance. The Programme has two major components. The first component is SMEs Fund Management where activities related to launching of market-based SMEs funds in target countries, fostering cross-border networking of SMEs funds and supporting migration of best practices across target countries are carried out. The second component is SMEs Advisory Services which focuses on providing solutions to authorities to help direct technical assistance in the areas of regulations, banking and capacity building.

### Regional Initiative under the Education for Employment (E4E) Programme

19. In April 2010, both IDB and IFC of the World Bank launched a US\$ 2 million joint study Education-for-Employment (E4E) Initiative for the Arab Youth. The study identified education gaps in three key areas: (i) identifying gaps in existing E4E framework, (ii) identifying linkages between the private labour market and education institutions, and (iii) advocating the importance of the private sector in bridging these gaps and enhancing these linkages. The study proposed the following measures to address education gaps: (i) achieve better quality of education in the Arab world, (ii) reform education system that impart appropriate mix of competencies to students, (iii) support strong linkages between education systems and the labour markets, (iv) establish an appropriate database for employment and training opportunities, and (v) incentivize the private sector investments in the education sector.

20. Following the release of the study, in April 2011, both IDB and IFC formally launched implementation of the E4E Initiative for the Arab Youth, over the next five years, while engaging the private sector to create new job opportunities for employment-based education, and enhancing labour market skills for Arab youth and women for productive employment. For this purpose, IDB approved an allocation of US\$50 million to support development and implementation of the E4E country plans for Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco.

## **c) WORKFORCE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

### Objectives

21. Education provides a foundation for development, the groundwork on which much of our economic and social well being is built. By increasing the value and efficiency of their labour, education helps to raise the poor from poverty. Education also increases the overall productivity and intellectual flexibility of the labour force. It helps to ensure that a

country is competitive in world markets, which are now characterized by changing technologies and production methods. In general, education raises people's productivity and creativity and promotes entrepreneurship and technological advances.

22. Under the capacity building, some of the examples of the specific areas under consideration are as follows: vocational education and training, improving the access and quality of higher education, technical and vocational education to develop competitive workforce in emerging sectors, capacity development in science, technology and innovation, capacity development in technical and vocational education.

23. With respect to the situation of capacity building in the OIC member countries the following issues are considered as common problems in many of the member states and conformity assessment of national education standards with international standards in the global labour market:

1. There are weak linkages between education institutions, research and development centers;
2. The lack and low quality of vocational education and training trap the poor workers in low-skilled, low-productive and low-wage jobs; and
3. Skills and capabilities of the educated people mismatch the needs of the labour market;

24. In addition, globalization, meanwhile, is bringing the distance between basic skill needs and advanced skills, forcing countries to cover a wide educational band even at low levels of development to catch up with advanced economies and then remain competitive.

### **Programmes of Action**

- Strengthening and promoting the cooperation among the member states in the field of education and vocational training through allocation of scholarship, exchange of experiences, publications and organization of research, training courses, seminars and workshops, especially with regard to the effective implementation of active labour force market programmes;
- Promoting national higher vocational institutions to educate the teachers and trainers needed in the technical training institutions, as well as local staff to be employed in supervisory and managerial capacities in the labour market;
- Encouraging SESRIC, IUT, ICDT, IDB Group, ISESCO and ICCI to promote cooperation with the relevant national institutions of OIC member states in the area of capacity building projects;
- Developing a system to ensure the exchange of information between public employment institutions as well as the development of their institutional capacities;



- Creating a special mechanism to organize academic exchanges of students and teachers;
- Promoting mutual recognition of degrees, diplomas and certificates;
- Encouraging administrative and support agencies to build up technical-specialized skills, technology and economic activities of Tech-Parks;
- Encouraging the development of systems allowing recognition of professionalism through acquisition of experience;
- Encouraging empowerment of autonomous workers' and employers' representative trade union organizations to conduct vocational trainings for sustainable employment of official and contractual workforce;
- Revising and updating technical and vocational trainings standards with an emphasis on development of "multiskill trainings" aimed at further adaptability and flexibility of the youth with technological and skill developments of production tools of national and international labour market; and
- Preparation and development of professional standards and a framework for national qualifications.

### **Strengthening the Existing OIC Programmes**

#### **Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET)**

25. Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), executed by SESRIC, presents a very important framework of cooperation for enhancing the quality of vocational education and training in the Member Countries. The OIC-VET Programme aims to support and enhance the opportunities for individuals in the Member Countries to develop their knowledge and skills and thus to contribute to the socio-economic development and competitiveness of their economies.

26. Vocational Education and Training is one of the practices that can effectively contribute to capacity building and skill improvement of labour force. VET could play a vital role in meeting the demand of the current labour market and helping people to increase their chances of securing appropriate jobs. The empirical studies show that vocational training significantly increases the likelihood of young people to be employed and get higher earnings compared to those without vocational education and training.

#### **Vocational Literacy Programme for Poverty Reduction (VOLIP)**

27. This Programme was launched in 2008, which are a pro-poor initiative aimed at simultaneously addressed two key gaps facing the rural poor and illiterate namely, access to education and access to financial services. VOLIP objectives are to enhance opportunities for employability and productivity by seeking to improve (i) functional literacy and skills competencies of youth and women, and (ii) access to micro finance services. Within the Five-Year Strategy (2008-2012), VOLIP is part of the ISFD flagship programmes with a budget of US\$100 million. So far, a total amount of US\$ 43.63 million has been approved for the four VOLIPs in Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Yemen.

#### **d) MIGRANT AND FOREIGN CONTRACT LABOUR**

##### **Objectives**

28. International migration represents any cross border movement by people from one country to another as a result of personal, economic and/or political motives. International migration focuses mainly on three related issues: 1) what determines the size and skill composition of immigrant flows to any particular host country; 2) how do the migrants adapt to the host country's economy; and 3) what is the impact of migrants on the host country's economy? All these issues demonstrate that the economic approach, using the assumptions that individual migration behaviour is guided by the search for better economic opportunities and that the exchange among the various players are regulated by a migration market, can leads to substantive insights into these issues. Moreover, migrant and foreign contract workers in an irregular situation are at high risk of exploitation in the labour market. Although the labour rights of migrants in an irregular situation are recognized in human rights and labour law instruments at the international level in order to assess the extent to which their fundamental rights are respected and protected. Areas covered by the research include health, housing, education, social care, employment status and fair working conditions, access to remedies as well as implications of immigration law enforcement.

29. The personal motives for migration range from having better education opportunities to seeking a mild climate for a better life standard. The economic motives for international migration which especially gained speed after the Industrial Revolution are centred on finding jobs which offer better wages and work conditions. The political motives for international migration due to increasing instabilities within nations have made migratory flows increase since the 20th century in which mankind happened to see the World War I and II, and many other regional clashes.

##### **Programmes of Action**

- Increasing the constructive effects of migration for development, including better management of migration and promotion of migrant and foreign contract workers;
- Creating an accurate statistical data system on immigrants;

- Exchanging information and data on regular migration, through seminars, conferences, training programmes, briefing, among others, in order to collect, analyse and disseminate reliable statistical data on migration and to facilitate the maximum benefit of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including exchange of information on services rendered to their respective Diasporas;
- Establishing common rules and regulations to ensure that migrant flows take place in accordance with established rules and under conditions that are mutually beneficial to the countries involved;
- Accelerating brain gain by promoting the return of the diaspora (because when it capitalised, it refers specifically to Jewish diaspora) to their original countries;
- Within the framework of foreign employment policy, establishing a “Labour Migration Administration as a self-regulating national body to coordinate its executive policies in the development strategy and as a system of migration flows management;
- Improving cooperation among the relevant institutions of the origin-transit-destination countries;
- Facilitating movement of workers within member states through such measures as visa issuance, remittances and residence permits, and the signing of bilateral agreements;
- Ensuring the exchange of experts and personnel between the relevant institutions of the member states; and
- Promote elaboration of an OIC multilateral convention addressing migrant labour issues among others.

### e) **LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION STRATEGY**

#### **Objectives:**

30. An effective labour market information system needs to be constructed because it is necessary for employers, businesses, governments and as well as other stakeholders to have the ability to access to accurate information on the labour market. The main objective is to provide relevant, accurate and timely labour market information for economic actors to let them make informed decisions. The quantity of the data might not be much however the quality must be high.

31. For instance, the unemployment rates across different sectors/regions may diverse, even though an increase occurs in the overall unemployment rate of a country. Labour market information will serve the governments, businesses, employers as a key element to

respond any changes that are occurring throughout the country. With the help of an effective labour market information system, accurate information for governments to plan for specific initiatives will be guaranteed.

32. As is widely known, unemployment statistics are not easily provided. For instance, because of the way the statistics are compiled, hidden unemployment issue raises. In many countries, those who do not seek for job actively are not officially considered unemployed despite the fact they are not employed. Similarly, those who qualify for social security benefits but do not work are counted among unemployed. It is, therefore, very important to develop an efficient labour market information strategy which will provide accurate data. In order for the strategy to be effective and useful, information needs to be updated regularly and revised as the labour market evolves.

### **Programmes of Action**

- Determining a set of important employment indicators;
- Coordinating the organization of the labour market data statistics collection as defined on the above item;
- Promoting awareness of the importance of labour market information to all the stakeholders;
- Exchanging experiences in labour markets monitoring and follow up;
- Supporting and encouraging member states to establish employment observatories;
- Creation of employment observatories network;
- Establishing a professional classification system; and
- Increasing the accessibility of affordable and reliable employment data to those, other than the stakeholders, who want to access the information.

### ***f)* SOCIAL PROTECTION**

#### **Objectives:**

33. Social protection is widely considered to be instrumental in promoting human welfare and social consensus on a broad scale, and to be conducive to and indispensable for fair growth, social stability and economic performance, and contributing to competitiveness.

34. Today, only 20 per cent of the world's population has adequate social security coverage, and more than half lack any coverage at all. They face dangers in the workplace and poor or non-existent pension and health insurance coverage. The situation reflects levels of economic development, with fewer than 10 per cent of workers in least-developed countries covered by social security. In middle-income countries, coverage ranges from 20 to 60 per cent, while in most industrial nations, it is close to 100 per cent.

35. It is essential to actively promote policies and provide with tools and assistance aimed at improving and expanding the coverage of social protection to all groups in society and to improving working conditions and safety at work. The social protection is also promote access to essential social security transfers and social services in the areas of health, water and sanitation, education, food, housing, life and asset-savings information. It emphasizes the need to implement comprehensive, coherent and coordinated social protection and employment policies to guarantee services and social transfers across the life cycle, paying particular attention to the vulnerable groups.

**Programmes of Action**

- Establishing of rational and systematic relationship between employment policies and social protections in development plans;
- Encouraging establishment of a self-funding bank and partnership allocation fund to financially support SMEs in OIC member states;
- Developing a national strategy for social protection that allows for the provision of minimum level of protection for all workers, including the self-employed;
- Supporting and encouraging cooperation among social security institutions; and
- Encouraging the conclusion of bilateral social security agreements.

**III. COORDINATION AND MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION**

36. The following measures shall be followed with regard to the implementation of this Framework:

1. A Steering Committee shall comprise 09 (nine) members and shall be set up by the member states at senior officials' level. The membership of the Steering Committee shall be as follows:
  - A Chairman;
  - Two Representatives from the African Group of the OIC;
  - Two Representatives from the Arab Group of the OIC; and
  - Two Representatives from the Asian Group of the OIC.
2. The country assuming the chairmanship of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers shall assume the chairmanship of the Steering Committee. The OIC General Secretariat shall facilitate the work of the Steering Committee and any of its working groups or forums.

3. The country assuming the chairmanship of the previous Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers and the country hosting subsequent Conference shall be ex officio members of the Steering Committee.
  4. Representatives of concerned OIC Subsidiary Organs, Specialized and Affiliated Institutions shall participate in the meetings of the Steering Committee and shall collaborate with the OIC General Secretariat in the execution of the various programmes and projects approved by the Conference and the Steering Committee.
  5. Representatives of some relevant international organizations, such the ILO, may be invited to participate in the meetings of the Steering Committee.
  6. The Steering Committee in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat shall follow-up the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the Conference.
  7. The Steering Committee is mandated to draw up detailed and quantified programmes and projects for the implementation of the Framework. The Framework shall take into consideration, among others, the following objectives:
    - a. Identify a common vision and common definite objectives for cooperation among the member states in the Field of Labour;
    - b. Develop short and long term plans for the cooperation in the field of labour in OIC member states; and
    - c. Adapt, wherever required by the circumstances, the common policies and programmes in the field of labour development to international changes and developments, e.g. the rise of unemployment, migration and protect the rights of women and children.
  8. The Steering Committee shall assess the implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection every year and shall submit a report thereon to the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers through the Secretary General of the OIC. The Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers shall be held biennially or as may be otherwise decided by the Conference.
  9. The Framework will come into force following its adoption by the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers and its endorsement by the CFM.
37. Adopted at Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26 April 2013 by the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers.

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