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**RESOLUTIONS
ON
ECONOMIC ISSUES**

ADOPTED BY THE

49th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

(MODERATION: KEY TO SECURITY AND STABILITY)

NOUAKCHOTT, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

16 – 17 MARCH, 2023

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RESOLUTION NO.1/49-E
ON
AGRICULTURE, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

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

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

Also recalling the Final Communiqué of the 14th Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the 31st May, 2019,

Further 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 the 16th-22nd May, 1977,

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

Recalling the Resolutions on Economic Issues adopted by the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on the 22nd – 23rd March, 2022,

Reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 38th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on the 26th – 29th November, 2022,

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

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

A. AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on the 14th-15th April, 2016, especially those goals relating to agriculture, rural development and food security,

Reaffirming the Resolutions on Promoting Food Security and Agricultural Development in OIC Member States, especially those adopted by the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on the 25th-27th October, 2021,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Resolution No.1/48-E adopted by the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on the 22nd – 23rd March, 22, particularly with regard to creating an enabling environment to promote public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, food security and rural development,

Also recalling the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), **including** those adopted by the 38th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on the 26th-29th November, 2022,

Convinced that the expansion and deepening of intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of agriculture and food security would contribute to enhancing food security and increasing agricultural productivity in the OIC Member States,

Encouraged by the enormous opportunities, huge potentials and comparative advantages available within the OIC countries in the area of agro-food commodity development, as evident in the fact that 26 OIC Member States are among the largest producers of major agricultural commodities on the global level,

Cognizant of the urgent need to address the precarious food security situation in a number of OIC Member States, as evident in the acute hunger and malnutrition affecting more than 88 million people in OIC Member States as reported by a joint FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots: June to September 2022 Outlook,

Acknowledging that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted global food supply chains, livelihoods, income and food prices, caused labor shortages and created disruptions to food distribution systems and slowed trade and business activities,

Expressing deep concern over the unprecedented recent rise in food commodities, energy and fuel prices, which severely affected people in vulnerable situations,

Noting with concern that droughts, desertification, land degradation, sand and dust storms, and other adverse effects of climate change, in addition to the unilateral control of transboundary water-courses, including more frequent and extreme weather occurrences, such as floods, are among the key factors contributing to food insecurity in OIC Member States,

Worried about the fact that globally, around 14% of food produced is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17% of total global food production is wasted, thus undermining the sustainability of food systems,

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

Recognizing the importance of strengthening cooperation among OIC Member States by exchanging experiences, sharing knowledge and transferring technology for sustainable agricultural development,

Welcoming the signing of the Statute of Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) by the Republic of Chad during 2022,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on the 25th-27th October, 2021,

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

Also commending the SESRIC's research and capacity building programmes in the areas of agriculture, water and environment,

Welcoming the launching by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group of a US\$10.54 billion Comprehensive Food Security Response Program towards promoting sustainable agricultural development and enhanced food security in OIC Member States,

Emphasizing the need to concert efforts on the implementation of the decisions of the OIC Ministerial Conferences on Food Security and Agricultural Development with regard to establishment of an OIC Food Security Reserve and OIC Programmes of Action on the Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities, namely: i) OIC Programme of Action for Development of Rice; ii) OIC Programme of Action for Development of Wheat; and iii) OIC Programme of Action for Development of Cassava,

Acknowledging the role of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), as an OIC specialized institution, in increasing intra-OIC cooperation towards achieving enhanced food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development in OIC Member States, and **stressing** the importance of enhancing the activities of the IOFS through development of new projects as well as practical implementation of the already approved programmes and projects,

Expressing its appreciation to the Republic of Tunisia for hosting the Fifth General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in Tunis on 10th – 11th October, 2022,

Commending the General Secretariat for the Brainstorming Session on the theme: *“Strategies for Addressing the Current and Future Food Security Needs of OIC Member States”*, which was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 16th October 2022, as part of the World Food Day commemoration, and taking note of the report of the session, which reflects various inputs/comments of the Member States and encouraging it to organize more such activities aimed at improving food security in OIC Member States,

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

1. **Calls upon** the OIC Member States to urgently support OIC countries, requiring urgent and scaled-up assistance to address food insecurity, through multilateral collaboration and coordinated actions, including the provision of emergency food

supplies, financial and technical support, and increased capacity for agricultural production;

2. **Calls on** capital and technology endowed OIC Member States to provide other OIC Member States with technical and in-kind assistance to grow more food and diversify sources of food for the OIC Member States;
3. **Urges** Member States to create an enabling environment designed to promote public and private investment, including foreign investment, in sustainable agriculture and rural development in order to increase agricultural productivity as well as develop food value chains in Member States;
4. **Calls on** Member States to enhance intra-OIC cooperation in the food and agriculture sector to build more resilient food system, share knowledge and best practices in order to help develop domestic production capacities, which are better suited to local needs, and to contribute to increased food security, productivity and resilience;
5. **Encourages** Member States to support capacity development, training and extension services for local producers and smallholder farmers, especially those in rural areas, to address key aspects of food systems sustainability as well as to promote the resilience and productivity of the food and agricultural sector;
6. **Also encourages** Member States to promote research and innovation to increase the resilience and sustainability of agricultural and food systems, and to mitigate and adapt to climate change and halt and reverse biodiversity loss;
7. **Calls on Member** States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Statute of IOFS, the new OIC specialized institution based in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, at their earliest convenience;
8. **Encourages** Member States to indicate their interest in hosting the Ninth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in 2023 with a view to reviewing food security situation in OIC Member States and developing a comprehensive OIC food security strategy;
9. **Requests** the General Secretariat, in coordination with the relevant OIC institutions, to undertake a study and develop a business model and cooperation framework for contract farming, assessing the needs and potentialities of the Member States, possible role and contribution by prospective Member States and OIC organs/institutions, and submit that study report and the business model to the next OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development and CFM for consideration and further decision;
10. **Commends** the significant contribution of the Kingdom of Morocco to enhancing the food security of African countries through the Office Chérifien des Phosphates (OCP) Group, by allocating 4 million tons of fertilizers to Africa in 2023 with the aim of increasing the yields of 44 million farmers in 35 African countries, including Morocco,

where the OCP Group is based, and welcomes the launch of this process and the utilization of these fertilizers by African countries;

11. **Emphasizes** the importance of increasing cooperation among OIC Member States in mitigating impacts of climate change on the agriculture sector, in particular through capacity building and sharing experiences, knowledge, technology transfer and good practices programmes.

B. LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 14th-15th April, 2016, especially those goals related to labour, employment and social protection issues,

Also recalling the Resolution of the 4th Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 21st-22nd February, 2018,

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

Taking note of the report of the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, which was held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 10th-11th March, 2019,

Emphasizing the need for expeditious implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection and OIC Labour Market Strategy, which outline the main areas of intra-OIC-cooperation in the domain of labour, employment and social protection,

Also emphasizing the need for of intra-OIC collaboration on labour and employment matters, including the implementation of: 1) OIC Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Skilled Workforce; 2) OIC Standard Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Manpower; and 3) OIC Labour Market Strategy,

Welcoming the signing of the Statute of OIC Labour Centre by the State of Libya on 23rd March 2022,

Further welcoming the signing of the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre by the Kingdom of Morocco on 22nd January, 2023,

Deeply concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionately negative impact on labour markets and employment across OIC countries, and with 51.4 million unemployed people, OIC Member States accounted for 24% of the global unemployment in 2021,

Being conscious of the fact that the unemployment rate of OIC countries was reported at 7.2% in 2021, which was higher compared to the world average of 6.2%, hence emphasizing the need

to address the dual challenge of creating new productive jobs and improving living standards for all,

Being mindful of the urgency to address the impact of COVID-19 on labour and employment in a timely and effective manner, while acknowledging the on-going efforts of individual OIC Member States to assist workers and employers affected by COVID-19,

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

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

1. **Urges** Member States to give priority to providing training and skills enhancement to increase the employability of the workforce and its adaptability to changing labour markets as well as designing comprehensive policies to provide access to education, vocational education and technical training, capacity building, upgrading skills and acquisition of new knowledge and lifelong learning;
2. **Encourages** Member States to pursue the creation of a conducive environment for enterprise development in both rural and urban areas, including by giving particular attention to policies that promote micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises through, inter alia, improved administrative regimes for the registration of small businesses, access to microcredit, social security systems, information on markets and new appropriate technologies, as well as improved regulations;
3. **Underscores** the need for the Member States to undertake necessary measures towards implementation of: 1) OIC Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Skilled Workforce; 2) OIC Standard Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Manpower; and 3) OIC Labour Market Strategy, respectively;
4. **Reiterates** its earlier request to Member States that have not yet signed/ratified the Statute of OIC Labour Center, to do so at their earliest convenience;
5. **Recognizes** the importance of creating an enabling environment to promote exchange of labour flow, particularly experts and specialists, among Member States as an opportunity to increase capacity building, eradicate poverty and providing services among OIC Member States and **invites** Member States to do so;
6. **Encourages** Member States to increase intra-OIC cooperation to facilitate sharing of models, best practices, and experiences on policies and initiatives in the domain of employment and social protection as well as on measures to support the recovery and resilience of all workers, who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;
7. **Invites** the Member States, which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, to actively participate in the 20th and 21st Meetings of the

Working Group to be held with the theme of “Effective Vocational Education and Training Strategies to Reduce Youth Unemployment in the OIC Member States” in 2023;

8. **Also invites** the relevant OIC institutions to continue to assist Member States, as appropriate and upon request, in advancing their efforts towards developing an environment that enables the effective generation of full and productive employment and decent work for all;
9. **Encourages** Member States to indicate their interest in hosting the Fifth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers in 2023 to discuss the current and emerging challenges affecting workers and labour markets in the OIC Member States.

C. **GENERAL PROVISION:**

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to B to the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.2/49-E
ON
INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND TRANSPORTATION

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

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

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

Also recalling the Final Communiqué of the 14th Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 31st May, 2019,

Further 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 16th-22nd May, 1977,

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

Recalling the Resolutions on Economic Issues adopted by 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22nd -23rd March, 2022,

Reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 38th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 26th-29th November, 2022,

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

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

A. INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Reaffirming the Resolution No.2/47-E adopted by 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27th-28th November 2020, with regards to intra-OIC trade and investment,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and the resolution adopted by the 38th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 26th- 29th November 2022,

Bearing in mind the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United

Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO), which highlights the need to support and facilitate the accession process of OIC Member States to the WTO,

Gravely concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the economic growth, international trade, and foreign direct investment of the Member States, and **emphasizing** the need for creating economic growth and recovery after the pandemic,

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

Aware of the necessity to strengthen public-private participation as well as the role of the private sector in promoting intra-OIC investment in key sectors, including support to the industrial infrastructure,

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

Welcoming the resolutions of the 37th Session of the COMCEC, which was held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 24th- 25th November, 2021, regarding the decisions of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Meeting on 1st-2nd June, 2021, on determination of 1st July, 2022, as the cut-off date for the effectuation of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC),

Also welcoming the convening of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) on 27th November, 2022, on the margins of the 38th COMCEC Session, and **taking note with appreciation** of TNC's following decisions: (i) preparation of a checklist in order to track record of implementation (ii) redistribution of concession lists through diplomatic channels, (iii) resolution of HS codes transposition issues with the technical assistance TNC Secretariat, (iv) organization of a follow-up meeting at expert level, (v) clarification of modalities to apply on the preparation of GCC's concession list with its all technical and legal implications by the TNC Secretariat,

Further welcoming the convening of the Ministers of Trade, Finance and Economy on 29th November 2022 on the margins of the 38th COMCEC Session where the Honorable Ministers reiterated the importance of increasing intra-OIC trade, particularly through full implementation of TPS-OIC and indicated their willingness to extend the scope of TPS-OIC,

Also expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the OIC High Level Public and Private Investment Conference in Istanbul, on 8th-9th December, 2019, in line with the paragraph 5 of the Resolution No.2/46-E (A), and taking note of the outcome of this Investment Conference,

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

Taking note of the Annual Report of ICDT, 2022 on "*Trade among the OIC Member States*", and noting that intra-OIC net trade volume reached US\$ 367.9 billion in 2021 compared to US\$ 350.4 billion in 2019, i.e. an increase of 5%,

Cognizant that the share of intra-OIC trade in the overall foreign trade of Member States increased from 18.95% in 2019 to 19.04% in 2021, thus stressing the need to further increase intra-OIC trade to attain 25% intra-OIC trade target by 2025,

Taking note of the fact that by 2021, 28 OIC countries had attained the 25% intra-OIC trade target set by the OIC-2025: Programme of Action,

Emphasizing the need for reflection of national trade priorities in the Work Programme of ICDT in line with the Resolution No.2/48-E adopted by the 48th CFM,

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

Commending as central, the role of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) as a leading financial hub and free economic zone for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) that has its own independent, internationally regulated regulatory and judicial system and global financial exchange,

Noting with appreciation the organization by the General Secretariat, in collaboration with ICDT and IsDB, the 1st Meeting of Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting to review the Draft Protocol on the Establishment of an OIC Permanent Mechanism for Settlement of Investment Disputes in Casablanca, Morocco, on 3rd-6th October, 2022,

Expressing its appreciation to the Republic of Senegal for hosting the 17th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in Dakar, Senegal, on 13th-19th June, 2022,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the 9th OIC Halal Expo, and the World Halal Summit (WHS) 2022 under the theme: “*For Sustainable Trade: Explore All Aspects of the Growing Global Halal Industry*”, in cooperation with ICDT and SMIIC, in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 24th-27th November, 2022,

Also expressing appreciation for the successful outcome of the 17th General Assembly Meeting of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 22nd November 2022, with particular reference to the approval of the membership applications of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Tajikistan ,

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

1. **Reiterates** its invitation to Member States, which have not yet signed or ratified the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC), PRETAS and Rules of Origin, to do so at their earliest convenience, including the submission of their list of products and schedule of concessions;

2. **Calls upon** the Member States to submit their national inputs to the Annual Work Programmes of OIC Subsidiary Organs in order to enhance inclusiveness, dynamism and ownership of OIC programmes and projects;
3. **Urges** all Member States to encourage their public and private entities to actively participate in the 18th OIC Trade Fair to be held in Lahore, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 16th- 18th June, 2023;
4. **Calls upon** the OIC General Secretariat, in coordination with IsDB and other relevant OIC institutions, to organize an OIC Investment Forum in Africa under the theme of “Unleashing Africa’s Investment Potential” and, to this end, **welcomes** the offers made by the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Chad to host the said Forum;
5. **Requests** the Secretary General to conduct necessary consultations with the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Chad for the convening of the First Edition of the OIC Investment Forum in Africa in 2023;
6. **Invites** the Member States to stand up with and support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in its bid to host the World Expo 2030 during the upcoming elections to be held at the General Assembly Meeting of the International Bureau of Expositions (BIE) in Paris, France, in November 2023;
7. **Welcomes** the decision on “Improving the e-Commerce Capacities of the OIC Member States” as the theme for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session at the 39th Session of the COMCEC;
8. **Also welcomes** the effectuation of TPS-OIC as of 1st July, 2022, in line with the relevant resolution of the 38th COMCEC Ministerial Session;
9. **Further welcomes** the initiative of the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) to organize, in collaboration with COMCEC Coordination Office, online awareness-raising webinars on TPS-OIC for the benefit of OIC Member States, which are also members of AMU, COMESA, ECOWAS and CEMAC, in 2023, and help participating OIC countries in the operationalization of the TPS-OIC after 1st July, 2022;
10. **Welcomes** the initiatives of the ICDT to organize forums for investment promotion and Requests the ICDT to hold further forums and meetings to encourage bilateral investments among OIC countries;
11. **Calls on** the ICDT and the OIC institutions to increase efforts to encourage digitization of the rules of international trade, which will facilitate trade exchanges among OIC countries;
12. **Thanks** Senegal for its offer to host the Second Intergovernmental Experts Group (IGGE) meeting regarding the OIC Permanent Mechanism for Settlement of Investment Disputes among the OIC Member States;

13. **Requests** the General Secretariat to invite the ICCIA and the OIC Arbitration Center as well as the IsDB and other related institutions, to the 2nd IGGE meeting in order to explore and discuss the technical aspects of the possibility of integrating the settlement of investment-related disputes to the OIC Arbitration Centre's portfolio of functions;
14. **Calls on** ICDT and IsDB Group to continue their efforts in raising awareness of Member States on the importance of the WTO agreements and trade negotiations and their impacts on their economies, and to strongly support and facilitate the accession of the OIC Member States to the WTO, and **invite** them to pool resources and coordinate their efforts to reinforce the human and institutional capacities of OIC Member States in WTO related matters;
15. **Requests** ICDT, SESRIC and IsDB Group, in cooperation with other relevant OIC institutions/organs, including COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), to develop capacity building and experience-sharing programmes to be implemented through effective networking among the national Investment and Trade Promotion Agencies (IPAs) in the OIC Member States;
16. **Also requests** SESRIC and IsDB Group to prepare, on an annual basis, an Investment Outlook Report, outlining the comparative situation of Member States, the trends in the investment ecosystem, priority sectors for investment, and the impacts of investment funds.

B. TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

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

Recalling the Resolution on Tourism Development adopted by 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22nd -23rd March, 2022, with regard to tourism development in OIC Member States,

Also recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, especially those adopted by the 38th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 26th-29th November, 2022,

Reaffirming the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States, adopted by the 10th ICTM, held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 6th-7th February, 2018,

Commending the Government of Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the 11th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Baku on 27th -29th June 2022, and **taking note** of the outcome of the said conference, especially the adoption of the Resolution on Tourism Development in the OIC Member States; and the selection of Shanliurfa in Türkiye and Khiva in Uzbekistan as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2023 and 2024, respectively,

Encouraging all Member States to take advantage of celebrating OIC City of Tourism and participate in the various commemorative ceremonies and activities to be held in Shanliurfa, Türkiye in 2023, and Khiva, Uzbekistan in 2024, as the OIC Cities of Tourism, with the objective of promoting intra-OIC tourism,

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

Further commending the contributions of the various OIC institutions in the development of the tourism sector,

1. **Welcomes** the attached Resolutions adopted by the 11th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 27th -29th June 2022 (*Annex-I*);
2. **Also welcomes** the award to Shanliurfa, Republic of Türkiye, as the OIC City of Tourism 2023 and a similar award to Khiva, Republic of Uzbekistan, as the OIC City of Tourism 2024, and **undertakes** to participate at the various commemorative ceremonies and activities aimed at promoting intra-OIC tourism in these awardee cities;
3. **Invites** the General Secretariat to liaise with the Government of the Republic of Türkiye on early arrangements for the commemoration of OIC City of Tourism 2023;
4. **Welcomes** the offers of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the State of Qatar to host the 12th Session of ICTM in Khiva in 2024, and the 13th Session of the ICTM in Doha in 2026, respectively, and **urges** all Member States to actively participate in these sessions;
5. **Also welcomes** the offer of the State of Qatar to host the 3rd OIC Tourism Fair in Doha in the second half of 2023, and **urges** all Member States to actively participate in this event;
6. **Urges** all Member States and relevant OIC institutions to implement the provisions of the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism, and organize annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourism flows, through inter alia, visa facilitation, investment promotion, branding and standardization, and capacity building;
7. **Expresses** its appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the 10th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum on 10th November, 2022, with the theme of “The Prospects and Challenges for Gastronomy Tourism in OIC Countries”;

8. **Calls on** OIC Member States to support the staging of OIC Tourism Fairs with the full participation and involvement of the Private Sector establishment and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);
9. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to invest in and explore niche tourism markets and segments like young tourists, domestic tourism, Islamic tourism, and eco-tourism to broaden the base for tourism activities and support the recovery efforts in the sector;
10. **Invites** the relevant OIC institutions to organize training programmes and activities on new developments, regulations and opportunities in the tourism sector with a view to enhancing the capacities of national tourism stakeholders and policymakers in the OIC Member States;
11. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to invest in ‘digitalization’ for promoting and marketing of their respective destinations as well as improving international visitors’ experience in the tourism sector with a view to speeding up the recovery efforts and hosting more international tourists;
12. **Calls upon** the relevant OIC institutions such as ICDT, IRCICA, IsDB, ICESCO and ICCIA to create a digital platform on which tourism promoting items such as handcrafts and art crafts could be posted for marketing and support to women, youth and rural and urban people in Member States involved in the production of these items;

C. PRIVATE SECTOR

Reaffirming the relevant provisions of the Resolution No.2/48-E adopted by 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22nd - 23rd March, 2022,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, especially those adopted by the 38th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 26th-29th November, 2022,

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

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

Expressing satisfaction with the fact that by the end of 2021, the cumulative financing approvals of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), since its inception in 1999, had reached US\$ 7 billion in support of more than 500 private sector related projects in OIC Member States,

Also expressing appreciation with the successful outcomes of the 33rd Session of the Board of Directors and the 38th General Assembly Meeting of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, on 17th -18th July, 2022,

Emphasizing the importance of the private sector development for the promotion of trade among the OIC countries at the regional and international level and encouraging OIC Member States and relevant institutions to support ICCIA for its sector-specific forums, planned for the year 2023,

Taking note of the outcome of the first Executive Committee meeting of OIC Arbitration Centre held in Alexandria, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 13th October 2022,

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

1. **Welcomes** the confirmation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of its desire to continue coordination with the General Secretariat and in a joint manner to host the OIC Private Sector Forum;
2. **Requests** the Secretary General to make necessary arrangements with the relevant authorities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the convening of the OIC Private Sector Forum during 2023;
3. **Calls upon** the Member States to encourage their national Chambers to actively participate in the work of the OIC Arbitration Centre with a view to enhancing the utilization of the Centre's services by the private sector;
4. **Reiterate its request** to Member States to designate their umbrella Chambers of Commerce as accredited members of the ICCIA, in order to strengthen the membership of ICCIA as well as consolidating support for this important corporate representative of the OIC;
5. **Acknowledges** the need to make greater efforts to establish the right business framework to attract sustainable investment and further scale-up support for entrepreneurs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and start-ups;
6. **Affirms** the importance of involving the private sector actors in policy consultation and formulation with regard to regulations and ensuring that financial rules are open and accessible to all businesses, including small businesses programs that provide entrepreneurs with technological, managerial, and financial skills.

D. TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 14th-15th April, 2016, especially those goals relating to transport development issues,

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

Reaffirming Resolution No. 2/48-E adopted by the 48th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22nd -23rd March, 2022, with regard to cooperation in the area of transportation,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC and the resolution adopted by the 38th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 26th-29th November, 2022,

Also recalling the First United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 26th-27th November, 2016, and its Ashgabat Statement,

Recognizing the important role of efficient, reliable and affordable multimodal transport and transit corridors for the efficient movement of goods and people in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare of people and enhancing cooperation and trade among OIC Member States,

Further recognizing the challenges and opportunities that transportation development presents to OIC Member States and the need for more cooperation and exchange of best practices in this direction,

Emphasizing the need to harmonize and improve transport and border-crossing infrastructure and facilities and services along the international transport and transit corridors,

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

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

Being conscious of the fact that there is a need to strengthen transport networks among the OIC Member States through formulation and execution of joint projects,

Mindful of the need to increase the public and private investments in the development of transport infrastructure, and enhance efficiency in transport systems, which would contribute to economic growth and employment in OIC Member States,

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

Also commending the GCC Railway project as it will connect all six Gulf Cooperation Council Member States (Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait), it being considered the second largest railway project in Asia and the region, destined to transport passengers and goods between all six countries and help boost intra-GCC trade,

Taking into consideration the on-going studies on constraints to connectivity among OIC Member States as well as main challenges of Landlocked Countries of OIC (LLDCs) in the area of transportation,

Taking note of the ongoing efforts to rejuvenate the OIC Ministerial Conference on Transportation through the convening of the Second OIC Ministerial Conference on Transportation at the earliest possible time,

Also taking note of the outcome of the Consultative Meeting with the African Group Member States of the OIC, which was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 17th October, 2022, particularly with regards to fast-tracking the implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project,

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

1. **Recognizes** the need for continued cooperation among OIC Member States to address the issues relating to transport and transit corridors as an important element of sustainable development;
2. **Calls on** Member States to develop stronger partnerships amongst themselves aimed at improving transportation infrastructure, including development of transport corridors and networks, enhancing connectivity and facilitating trade and investment in the OIC region;
3. **Also calls** on the concerned OIC Member States to include the respective national segments along the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor in their national development plans and to submit the relevant documents to facilitate the mobilization of necessary support by the OIC and its development partners through convening of the Second Stakeholders Meeting on the Project;
4. **Reiterates its request** to Member States and respective OIC development agencies to assist project owners in securing external financial and in-kind support to fast-track the implementation of the various segments of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway corridor;

5. **Calls upon** Member States to further encourage enhanced networking and periodic consultation among their relevant authorities involved in the development and operation of international transport and transit corridors;
6. **Welcomes** the launching of Pakistan-Iran-Türkiye Freight Train Service and the pilot project on Pakistan-Afghanistan-Uzbekistan road shipments to boost regional connectivity and trade;
7. **Encourages** Member States to indicate their interest in hosting the Second OIC Ministerial Conference on Transportation in 2023 to discuss intra-OIC cooperation on transportation and logistics;
8. **Commends** the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project, which connects 13 countries in West Africa, and stresses the importance of promoting investment in such projects and welcomes the signing by Morocco, Nigeria and the Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS) in Rabat, Morocco, on 15th September, 2022, of a Memorandum of Understanding for the operationalization of this project as well as the signing by Morocco, Nigeria, Mauritania and Senegal, in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 15th October, 2022, of an agreement to facilitate the passage of the Nigeria-Morocco pipeline;
9. **Invites** Member States with comparative advantages to take initiatives aimed at capacity-building, exchange of best practices, raising awareness, and enhancing intra-OIC dialogue on transportation for the benefit of all Member States.

E. GENERAL PROVISION:

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to D to the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3/49-E
ON
POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

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

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

Also recalling the Final Communiqué of the 14th Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 31st May, 2019,

Further 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 16th-22nd May, 1977,

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

Recalling Resolution No.3/48-E adopted by 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22nd-23rd November, 2022,

Reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 38th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 26th-29th November, 2022,

Noting with great concern the catastrophic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on people's lives and livelihoods, which reversed the progress of poverty reduction achieved in recent years, and that the poorest and most vulnerable were the hardest hit by the pandemic,

Remaining deeply concerned that rising inflation and the impacts of the ongoing conflicts further exacerbate the living conditions of the vulnerable people and make poverty reduction even more challenging,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest challenge facing many OIC Member States today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in the OIC Least Developed Countries, and **underlining** the importance of accelerating sustainable economic growth and development with a view to improving the people's well-being, especially vulnerable groups, namely women, children and people with disabilities,

Alarmed by the increasing security deterioration in the Sahel Region and some other OIC countries part of which is attributable to poverty and unemployment among the youth,

Taking note of the outcome of the Exchange of Views Session of the 38th Ministerial Session of COMCEC on the theme: *“Effective Social Assistance Provision and Socioeconomic Empowerment in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic”* held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 28th November, 2022,

Also taking note of the outcome of the Consultative Meeting with the African Group Member States of the OIC, which was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 17th October, 2022, particularly with regards to the implementation of the Special Programme for Development of Africa and the need for a successor programme after a comprehensive evaluation of the first one,

Recognizing the importance of supporting OIC Member States in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to promote the empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations,

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

Also commending the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) for their poverty alleviation efforts, and praising the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing cooperation among the OIC Member States especially through the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group, the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism and COMCEC COVID Response,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

1. **Stresses** the importance of taking targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and **encourages** Member States to continue to develop and implement anti-poverty programmes based on national priorities, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups within society;
2. **Welcomes** the ongoing work by the relevant OIC institutions to support the national efforts of OIC Member States to alleviate poverty and, in this regard, **emphasizes** the need to increase, within their respective mandates, programmes and projects aimed at developing capacities of OIC Member States and supporting their national strategies that address poverty eradication and promote sustainable economic growth;
3. **Encourages** OIC Member States to promote exchange of views and experiences amongst themselves in the context of poverty alleviation and promoting sustainable economic development;
4. **Requests** the IsDB Group to prepare an assessment report on the implementation of the Special Programme for Development of Africa and submit it to the concerned Member States at the earliest.

A. ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT (ISFD):

Recalling the relevant provisions of Final Communique of the 14th Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the 31st May, 2019, with regard to the need to mobilize resources for the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD),

Reaffirming its relevant Resolutions on the mobilization of funds for the ISFD, particularly the Resolution No.3/48-E adopted by 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22nd -23rd March, 2022,

Also reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 38th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 26th-29th November, 2022,

Noting that a total of 48 OIC Member States and IsDB Group have made capital contribution pledges to ISFD amounting to US\$ 2.6 billion, which represents only 26% of the approved target capital of US\$10 billion,

Also noting that 31 OIC Member States and IsDB Group have paid their contribution pledges in full, while 8 OIC Member States paid their contribution pledges partially, and other 9 OIC Member States have yet to pay their contribution pledges,

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

Commending the allocation of a plot of land each by Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoros and Cote d'Ivoire to ISFD under the Waqf Programme,

Noting that the cumulative value of the various interventions on poverty alleviation projects through ISFD amounted to US\$ 1.2 billion by June of 2022,

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

Emphasizing the need for further mobilisation of funds in order to make-up for the funding gap of US\$ 7.4 billion to ISFD, as a crucial way of expanding its activities towards alleviating poverty, improving social services and infrastructures in OIC Member States, through diversification of resources,

Also emphasizing that international funding plays an important role in complementing the efforts of OIC countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the OIC least developed countries with limited domestic resources, to finance national development programmes,

1. **Renews its call on** OIC Member States, which have not done so, to redeem fully their respective capital contributions pledges to ISFD and to consider making additional

commitments on a voluntary basis, including allocation of Waqf land in favour of ISFD, so as to achieve its target capital of US\$ 10 billion;

2. **Also calls upon** OIC Member States, which have not made any capital contribution commitment to ISFD, to make their respective pledges to ISFD in the spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance;
3. **Further calls on** OIC Member States to support relevant OIC institutions towards enhancing partnership with the private sector establishments in OIC Member States with a view to mobilizing additional funds to ISFD;
4. **Invites** the Secretary General to continue to report on the activities of ISFD.

B. DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAMIC SOCIAL FINANCE

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

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

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

Also recalling the relevant provisions of the Resolutions on Economic Issues adopted by 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22nd – 23rd March, 2022,

Being conscious of the fact that 15.4% of the total population in the OIC Member States are still living below the income poverty threshold of US\$2.15 a day, thus emphasizing the need to mobilize additional sources to support the programmes relating to poverty alleviation,

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

Taking note of the outcome of the Forum on Islamic Social Finance, held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 12th-13th November, 2019,

Appreciating the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, in collaboration with International Islamic Fiqh Academy, in organizing the International Conference on Islamic Social Finance: Fiqh Perspective in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 6th October, 2021,

Acknowledging that Islamic social finance tools, such as waqf and zakat, can effectively support the social-economic development programs in OIC Member States when it is properly developed, managed and utilized with transparency, accountability and efficiency,

Also acknowledging the ongoing efforts of the General Secretariat and Islamic Development Bank to organize a seminar on the interest-free micro-finance model introduced by a Pakistan-based organization, “Akhawat” for the benefit of the OIC Member States,

Commending the continuous efforts of IsDB Group, particularly Islamic Development Bank Institute (IsDBI) towards developing the Islamic social finance sector in OIC Member States as well as documenting national experiences in this direction,

1. **Requests** Member States to create the necessary legal and regulatory environment and supporting infrastructure in order to promote development of Islamic social finance, so as to increase its impact on the economy and realize its full potential in addressing poverty;
2. **Invites** Member States, which have developed an effectively functioning Islamic social finance sector, to share their experiences and best practices with other Member States with a view to promoting the development of this sector in these countries for the benefit of those living in poverty;
3. **Also invites** the relevant OIC institutions to provide necessary training and technical support to OIC Member States on the development of Islamic social finance, including its mainstreaming into the national poverty alleviation strategies;
4. **Encourages** Member States to indicate their interest in hosting the international seminars to create awareness and offer opportunities for discussing issues among the stakeholders on how to further promote the development of the Islamic social finance sector in OIC Member States.

C. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTRA-OIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROMOTION OF ISLAMIC FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY (OIC FINTECH)

Guided by the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and OIC Ten Year Programme of Action,

Recalling all previous OIC resolutions, decisions, statements and declarations on eradication of poverty, technological innovation to facilitate economic growth and wealth creation, promote inclusive and sustainable development,

Recalling the resolutions of the First and Second Summits of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Science and Technology held in Astana, Kazakhstan and Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 11th September 2017 and 16th June 2021 respectively,

Referring to the report of the United Nations Open Task Force on Harnessing Digitalization to Finance a Sustainable Future aimed at harnessing digital finance to accelerate the financing of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing the need to unlock greater financial inclusion by reducing the cost of payment and provide better access for capital domestically and internationally,

Reiterating the commitment to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency,

Recognizing the imperative for financial inclusion through poverty reduction and improving standard of living, especially among the marginalized and unbendable groups such as women, low-income earners and people who have been remotely removed from urban centres,

Also recognizing that financial inclusion provides substantive support to these groups and strives to improve the standard of living for such vulnerable groups through innovation and infrastructure,

Underscoring the importance of Islamic Financial Technology in providing technology innovation to facilitate economic growth and wealth creation among OIC Member States,

Emphasizing the need for the OIC Region to work toward achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goals that are built on resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization,

Noting that Islamic Fintech would improve the standard of living for vulnerable groups through digital financial inclusion, expand the development of the potentials for enterprises (SDG Goal 9), create employment (SDG Goal 8) and increase economic participation (SDG Goal 10),

Also noting the fact that Global Islamic Finance exerts considerable influence in the international banking sector, as Islamic Finance is now a US\$3 Trillion industry with growing demand,

Further noting that Islamic Fintech is still finding its footing and there is the need to support Islamic Fintech to bring desired benefits to the OIC Member States,

Commending the measures being put in place by the various governments of OIC Member States towards financial inclusion and popularization of Islamic banking products among the various segments of their populations,

Emphasizing the fact that Islamic Fintech has been identified as a means to deepen financial inclusion in Nigeria, while noting that there is still limited penetration in rural communities,

Commending the efforts of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States, especially through the COMCEC Financial Working Group meetings to be held in 2024, focusing on improving Fintech in Islamic Finances, and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism,

Taking into account the Concept Note on the Development of an Intra-OIC Cooperation Framework for Islamic financial technology (OIC Fintech),

1. **Calls for** the establishment of OIC Framework on Islamic Fintech, expected to boost the development of Islamic Fintech and promote financial inclusion of OIC Member States;
2. **Also calls** for pro-active steps by the General Secretariat in collaboration with relevant OIC institutions and bodies such as IsDB and COMCEC to set in motion the desired steps for the actualization of the intra-OIC framework on Islamic Fintech;
3. **Encourages** all OIC Member States to develop national institutions charged with the formulation and coordination of the programmes of Islamic Fintech.

D. GENERAL PROVISION

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to C to the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 4/49-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO OIC MEMBER STATES AND
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN DISPUTED/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND NON-OIC
COUNTRIES WITHIN THE OIC MANDATE

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

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

Also recalling the Final Communique of the 14th Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 31st May, 2019,

Reaffirming the Resolution No.4/48-E adopted by 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22nd – 23rd March, 2022, with regard to Economic Assistance to the OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in Disputed/Occupied and non-OIC countries within the OIC mandate,

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

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

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

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

Welcoming the establishment of the Indonesian Agency for International Development and its development cooperation fund as part of Indonesia's commitment to economic and technical assistance to developing countries, including but not limited to OIC Member States,

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

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

Also commending the support of the Islamic Development Bank Group to OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in non-OIC countries in achieving their development objectives,

1. **Calls on** OIC Member States and other potential donors to continue to assist the needy OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in non-OIC countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth in line with the ideals of partnership, mutual assistance and solidarity among OIC Member States;
2. **Commends** the initiatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by cancelling debts owed by Least Developed Countries to the tune of US\$6 billion based on humanitarian considerations;
3. **Also commends** the generous donation of SAR 20 million by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, bringing its total donation to Member States to more than US\$ 147 million, in support of the OIC initiative for COVID-19 vaccine access to its Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in the coordination of King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre;
4. **Invites** well-endowed OIC Member States to develop capacity-building and technical assistance programmes for the benefit of needy OIC Member States, especially Least Developed Countries as well as facilitate appropriate technology transfer to develop and implement national development strategies;
5. **Renews its earlier calls on** OIC Member States to submit, on an annual basis, information on their respective assistance pursuant to the present and previous resolutions on this matter;
6. **Requests** the IsDB Group to prepare an assessment report on the implementation of the Special Programme for Central Asia and submit it to the concerned Member States.

A. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO OIC MEMBER STATES

i. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN:

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

Referring to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions regarding the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan,

Deploring the continued consequences of the armed aggression by Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, which resulted in violent displacement of almost one million Azerbaijani people from their homes, which, as such, resembles the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing,

Being conscious of the fact that economic damage inflicted upon Azerbaijan as a result of decades-long aggression by Armenia has exceeded US\$60 billion,

Expressing dismay over the scale of destruction in the territories of Azerbaijan during occupation and massive contamination of these territories with landmines and other explosive devices,

Welcoming and appreciating the financial and humanitarian assistance extended by some Member States, Islamic Development Bank and other Islamic Institutions, as well as United Nations institutions and international organizations over the past years,

Expressing satisfaction on de-occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, which will allow to eliminate severe humanitarian problems concerning the existence of more than one million displaced persons in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan through enabling them to return to their homes in safety, honor and dignity,

1. **Appeals** to the Member States, Islamic Development Bank and other Islamic Institutions as well as all other States to extend their assistance to the Government and People of Azerbaijan in their efforts to rehabilitate and reconstruct the de-occupied territories which suffered severely from the consequences of aggression by Armenia with a view to enabling the safe and dignified return of the displaced persons;
2. **Calls upon** the International organisations to continue to support economic and social development activities of Azerbaijan.

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

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

Recalling all previous resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on assistance to the Kashmiri people, particularly Resolution 4/48-E of the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers,

Expressing deep sympathy for the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K), who have suffered tremendous loss of life and livelihood under decades of Indian illegal occupation,

Underscoring that the illegal Indian actions of 5th August 2019, are meant to disenfranchise the Kashmiri people of their political rights and to deny them of their economic and social rights as natives of the occupied territory,

Deploring that subsequent Indian actions including the issuance of over 4.2 million domiciles to non-Kashmiri Indian citizens, enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019 and the Delimitation Commission, which were part of the systematic attempts to change the demography of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to turn its Muslim majority into a minority,

Expressing deep concern that the Covid-19 pandemic has aggravated the grave human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir in the wake of illegal Indian actions of 5th August 2019, and the cumulative effect of the "double lockdown" is estimated to be worth US\$9.5 billion to the economy of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir,

Expressing gratitude to all Member States, which have been supportive of the Kashmiris and their legitimate struggle for self-determination,

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

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

Also welcoming the visits of the Secretary General's Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan and the Azad Jammu and Kashmir, in March 2020, in November 2021, and in December 2022, and the Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs in November 2021,

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

1. **Calls** for expeditious implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports of OIC Secretary General's Special Representatives for Jammu and Kashmir on visits to Azad Jammu and Kashmir in May 2016, March 2020 and November 2021;
2. **Also calls** for expeditious implementation of the recommendations of the report by the Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs on the egregious violations of international human rights and humanitarian standards in the IIOJK with particular reference to the COVID-19 pandemic;
3. **Encourages** the Islamic Solidarity Fund and Islamic Development Bank to finance through grants/soft loans, development projects in Azad Jammu and Kashmir;
4. **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;
5. **Urges** Member States and the Islamic institutions, in particular, the Islamic Development Bank, to develop programmes for providing scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and institutions in the OIC countries, and beyond;
6. **Encourages** the international community, particularly donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations from the Islamic World to continue to provide necessary funds and assistance to support the ongoing efforts for economic upliftment of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and requests the Secretary General to consider the establishment of a dedicated mechanism to this end, and to report on the progress made during the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

C. GENERAL PROVISION:

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to B to the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 5/49-E
ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE COMCEC

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 31st May, 2019, which commended the role of the COMCEC under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Türkiye, in contributing to the realization of OIC objectives in the economic domain and highly commended the successful implementation of the COMCEC revised Statute and the Strategy adopted at the Fourth Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference,

Also recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 38th Session of the COMCEC,

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

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

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

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

Commending the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office and the OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely SESRIC, ICDT, IsDB Group (IsDB, ICD, ITFC, ICIEC), IOFS, ICCIA, SMIIC and OISA,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General,

1. **Renews** its request to the Member States to further their efforts for the implementation of COMCEC's Resolutions, including the resolutions of the 38th Session of the COMCEC No. OIC/COMCEC/38-22/RES as annexed hereto, in a manner consistent with the OIC Charter (Annex II);
2. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report thereon to the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.6/49-E
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RELEVANT OIC INSTITUTIONS
WORKING IN THE ECONOMIC DOMAIN

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

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

Reaffirming the Resolution on Activities of the OIC Institutions Working in the Economic Domain adopted by the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22nd – 23rd March, 2022,

Also reaffirming the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), especially those adopted by the 38th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 26th – 29th November, 2022,

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

Taking note of the outcome of the Sixth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) held at the OIC General Secretariat Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 14th-15th December, 2022,

Taking into account the reports on activities of the various OIC institutions in the economic domain, namely: COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IsDB Group, IOFS, ICCIA and SMIIC,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Taking note of the outcome of the 45th Meeting of the Board of Directors of SESRIC, held in Ankara, Türkiye, on 27th October, 2022,

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

1. **Commends** the efforts of SESRIC on the preparation of various technical background reports and studies, which are regularly submitted to the relevant OIC sectoral Ministerial Conferences and Standing Committees;
2. **Calls upon** the Member States to take note of the recommendations and project proposals contained in the reports and studies of SESRIC submitted to the relevant OIC Ministerial Conferences and meetings;
3. **Invites** SESRIC to continue conducting joint research projects with relevant regional, international and national research and think-tank institutions and universities on developmental issues of interest to the Member States with a view to generating proposals that will initiate and enhance cooperation among them;
4. **Calls upon** SESRIC to initiate research projects on new socio-economic developmental issues, which are challenging the efforts of the Members States towards achieving the SDGs, particularly those, which are also stipulated in the OIC-2025 Programme of Action;
5. **Appreciates** SESRIC's efforts in conducting various capacity building programmes and training activities in a wide-range of socio-economic fields and areas tailored to the specific needs of the national institutions of the Member States, and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in these activities and programmes that play an important role in the improvement of human capital in the OIC Member States;
6. **Calls upon** the Member States to participate in, and support, the activities of SESRIC through designating their National Focal Points (NFPs) for the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) and activating the role of these NFPs in the process of the implementation of the Strategic Roadmap of the Programme;
7. **Appreciates** the continuous efforts of SESRIC aimed at enhancing the capacities and the quality of TVET systems in the OIC region and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in, and support, the various capacity development activities of SESRIC organized under the OIC-VET Programme;

8. **Urges** SESRIC and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group to enhance and increase their cooperation to facilitate the implementation of a wide range of activities such as joint research, trainings, workshops, study visits and so on within the framework of all SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes and the OIC-VET Programme for the benefit of the Member States;
9. **Commends** the efforts of SESRIC on the implementation of the Reverse Linkage Projects together with IsDB Group with a view to increasing the capacities of the Member States through the transfer of knowledge, technology and best practices, and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in these projects either as a beneficiary or provider;
10. **Also commends** the continuous efforts of SESRIC in cooperation with the Member States towards enhancing the technical capacities of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) of the OIC Member States within the framework of the Centre's Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB) and **calls upon** the NSOs of the Member States to actively participate in the annual sessions of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom);
11. **Appreciates** the efforts of SESRIC in assuming a significant role in the work of two Intra-OIC Networks, namely, OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET), through providing facilitation and necessary technical support and **invites** the Member States to actively participate in the activities organized within the framework of these important networks;
12. **Urges** the Member States, which have not done so thus far, for the on-time and regular payment of their annual mandatory contributions to the budget of the Centre, and to act for the settlement of their outstanding arrears, if any, at the earliest.
13. **Calls upon** the Member States to regularly provide SESRIC with timely and comprehensive data whenever requested as data is key to any development efforts of the Member States.

B. ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

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

Bearing in mind the outcome of the ACMOI Sub-Committee on Trade and Investment (TISC) Meeting, which was held in Marakech, Kingdom of Morocco, on the 8th – 9th March, 2022,

Noting with satisfaction the organization by ICDT of webinars and trade fairs on issues relating to MSMEs COVID-Resilience, Pricing and Documentation of Export, MSMEs Trade Negotiation Techniques, International Trade Risks, Payment Modality, and Incoterms New Rules between January to December 2022 for the benefit of OIC Member States,

Expressing its appreciation to ICDT and IsDB for organizing a Workshop on "Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and Advantages of a Regional Plan for its Sustainable Implementation in OIC Countries", on the sidelines of the Expo 2020, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 23rd-24th

March, 2022, and launching of its implementation in collaboration with WTO, UNCTAD and Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation,

Also expressing its appreciation to ICDT and IsDB for organizing, in collaboration with WTO Secretariat, a Webinar on the Preparation for the 12th WTO Ministerial Meeting for the benefit of OIC Member States on 31st May, 2022,

Noting with satisfaction the organization by ICDT, in collaboration with SESRIC, of the Training Webinar on the Prospects of Sustainable Tourism in OIC Countries on 1st -2nd June, 2022, and Training on the Prospects of Health Tourism in OIC Countries on 8th -9th November, 2022,

Also noting with appreciation the organization by ICDT, in collaboration with IsDB and BADEA, the Forum of the OIC Investment Promotion Agencies on Policy Dialogue in Dakar, Senegal, on 15th June, 2022, and the OIC -Senegal Investment Forum in Dakar, Senegal, on 16th -17th June, 2022,

Further noting with appreciation the organization by ICDT, in collaboration with SMIIC, the Training Program on Halal Certification for African Countries in Dakar, Senegal, on 15th -16th June, 2022,

Noting with appreciation the organization by ICDT of the scoping mission to the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 28th November, 2022, to 2nd December, 2022, to implement, in collaboration with Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, the ePhyto Project,

Also noting with appreciation the organization by ICDT, in collaboration with IsDB, UNECA, IRU, the Workshop on TIR/eTIR and CMR/eCMR for the OIC African Member States in Casablanca, Morocco, on 28th -29th June, 2022, and the Workshop on TIR/eTIR and CMR/eCMR for the IGAD Countries in Djibouti, Djibouti, on 13th -14th December, 2022,

Mindful of ICDT's report on Investment Climate and Opportunities, which was prepared in collaboration with IsDB, OIC Halal Economy Report 2021-2022, and a Study on the Impact of Ukraine-Russia Crisis on OIC Trade, and **taking note** of their related recommendations,

Cognizant of the monitoring reports on the World Trade Organization (WTO) matters, which were prepared and submitted by ICDT and IsDB in compliance with the decision of the 14th Session of the COMCEC,

Taking note of the outcomes of the 39th Meeting of ICDT's Board of Directors held on 7th - 8th March, 2022,

Having considered the activity report submitted by the ICDT,

1. **Calls upon** the Member States to keep on providing the ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations, and **entrusts** ICDT to follow up the issue of the expansion of intra-OIC trade to reach 25% by 2025 and report to the COMCEC and other OIC fora;

2. **Also calls on** IsDB and ICDT to conduct workshops and analytical studies on new issues of WTO such as electronic commerce, MSMEs internationalization and exports strategies, health, fisheries subsidies, agriculture, domestic regulations, trade information sharing and investment facilitation for development, TIR/eTIR, CMR/eCMR, ePhyto, e-Certificate of Origin, e-Health certificate for fisheries, Women and Trade, OIC Countries Acceding to WTO, trade in services, and etc.;
3. **Further calls on** Members of the ACMOI Sub-Committee on Trade and Investment (TISC) to implement recommendations of the TISC Meeting, which was held in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, on 8th 9th March, 2022;
4. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host, in collaboration with ICDT and IsDB, the Workshop on the Digitization of OIC IPA Services in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 19th -20th December, 2022;
5. **Also welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Uganda to organize, in collaboration with ICDT, the OIC Coffee Meeting in Kampala, Uganda, on 7th – 8th March 2023;
6. **Commends** the initiative of ICDT and IsDB to implement a Program on Capacity Development of OIC IPAs (2022-2025), in particular implementing the program for IPAs of Mauritania and Chad during 2022-2023;
7. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire to organize, in collaboration with ICDT, the OIC – Cote d’Ivoire Investment Forum in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire, on 16th -17th March, 2023;
8. **Also welcomes the offers** of the following Member States to organize, in collaboration with ICDT, “Bahrain Halal Expo “in Bahrain, on 4th-6th May, 2023; “10th OIC Halal Expo” in Tunisia, on 31st May-4th June 2023; “18th OIC Trade Fair” in Pakistan, on 16th -18th June, 2023; “5th OIC Health Expo” in Senegal, on 6th-9th July, 2023; and “2nd OIC Cotton, Textiles and Clothing Expo” in Cote d’Ivoire, on 19th-22nd July, 2023;
9. **Urges** IsDB and ICDT to carry on their efforts in raising the awareness of the OIC Member States of the importance of the WTO agreements and trade negotiations and their **impacts** on their economies, and **calls upon** IsDB and ICDT to pool together and coordinate their efforts to reinforce the human and institutional capacities of the OIC Member States in WTO related matters, in particular, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Trade Remedies Measures, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on an equitable and fair basis;
10. **Calls on** ICDT, in close cooperation with IsDB Group, to continue extending the technical assistance to the OIC Member States in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations and coordinate the positions of the OIC Member States within the WTO;

11. **Entrusts** IsDB Group and ICDT to monitor matters relating to WTO activities and report them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned fora;
12. **Calls on** ICDT to carry on holding more sector-specific exhibitions and to keep on utilizing professional expertise in these activities, especially in the area of tourism, Halal industry, agribusiness, green economy, health products and services, higher education services, maritime economy, social and solidarity economy, cotton, textiles and garments, furniture, interior decoration and building, logistics and transportation, and to submit regular progress reports to the relevant OIC fora;
13. **Urges** ICDT to carry on providing technical assistance and organizing training and awareness raising seminars on the TPS -OIC and its Protocols in the different regions of the OIC in a bid to sensitize the OIC Member States to complete their membership to the TPS-OIC;
14. **Further urges** ICDT to support OIC Member States to setup Single Window System, Trade and Investment Intelligence Data Banks and conduct Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) survey with the aim of facilitating intra-OIC trade;
15. **Calls on** ICDT, in cooperation with SESRIC, to carry on monitoring with the World Tourism Organisation the project on “The Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa“ and **invites** them to organize capacity building programmes in the field of tourism development;
16. **Takes note** of the appeal made by the Director General of ICDT to the OIC Member States to grant voluntary contributions to ICDT in order to finance the new initiatives to be launched by the Centre like trade corridors to facilitate trade flows for the benefit of landlocked countries, Afro-Asia, Arab-Africa Business Initiatives, the Single Window System, Export potential and Access Map, the OIC HelpDesk, SMEs, Women and Youth Empowerment programs and **encourages** ICDT to widen its cooperation to raise extra-budgetary funds in order to ensure the implementation of its upcoming programs;
17. **Endorses** the ICDT draft work programme for the year 2023, which was adopted by the 39th Meeting of ICDT’s Board of Directors, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 7th – 8th March, 2022.

C. ISLAMIC ORGANISATION FOR FOOD SECURITY (IOFS)

Pursuant to the Final Communique of the 14th Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31st May, 2019, which welcomed the consolidation of the structures of IOFS,

Recalling the Resolution 1/48-E adopted by the 48th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22nd-23rd March, 2022, urging Member States to sign and ratify the Statute of IOFS,

Giving effect to the provisions of the Statute of IOFS, approved by the 40th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 9th-11th December, 2013,

Congratulating the newly elected members of the Executive Board of IOFS and wishing them a successful tenure of service,

Commending the generous support of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for facilitating the establishment of the Secretariat of IOFS, through financing the budgets of the latter for three years with effect from 2018 and for executing the Headquarters Agreement with IOFS in this regard,

Also commending the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the Second Session of IOFS General Assembly in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 27th-29th August, 2019, and for the special donation of US\$ 2 million for the activities of IOFS,

Commending further the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia for hosting virtually the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sessions of the IOFS General Assembly on 2nd-3rd December, 2020, on 8th-9th September, 2021, and 10th -11th October, 2022, respectively,

Being appreciative of IsDB and other relevant OIC institutions for supporting the activities of IOFS, thereby ensuring synergy and effective allocation of resources,

Welcoming the signing of the Statute of IOFS by the Republic of Chad, the ratification of the same by the Republic of Tajikistan, and the joining of Turkmenistan as Observer Country during 2022,

Advocating for an enhanced role of IOFS in addressing the challenges to ensure food security on the international arena,

Taking note of the Progress Report on the activities of IOFS pursuant to CFM resolutions on agriculture, rural development and food security,

1. **Calls on** Member States to implement the various strategic programmes of IOFS geared towards scaling up intra-OIC action for increased food security, productivity and resilience in OIC Member States;
2. **Also calls** on Member States, which have not done so, to sign and ratify the Statute of IOFS, the OIC specialized institution based in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan;
3. **Commends** in this connection the signing by the Republic of Chad of the Statute of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security on 27th July, 2022, in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
4. **Calls upon** the Member States to generously contribute to the Afghanistan Food Security Programme (AFSP), launched at the 17th Extraordinary Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held on 19th December, 2021, in Islamabad, Pakistan, with a view to mitigating

the sufferings of the people of Afghanistan, who are facing acute food shortage, and **appreciates** the efforts exerted by the IOFS in implementing the AFSP, particularly the delivery of potable water cleaning equipment to several rural areas in Afghanistan in April 2022, as well as other immediate response projects;

5. **Calls on** all OIC Member States, its financial institutions and relevant organizations, particularly IsDB and ISF, to finance and provide technical assistance to all the relevant host countries for their longtime hosting and supporting of millions refugees, migrants and displaced people of Afghanistan;
6. **Takes note of** the adoption of “IOFS Strategic Vision 2031” by the 4th IOFS General Assembly held virtually on 8th-9th September, 2021, under the chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and **recommends** the Member States to coordinate appropriately with IOFS for the implementation of the same;
7. **Also takes note of** the IOFS decision to name 2022 as the “IOFS Year for Africa” and initiation by the IOFS of several programmes in or for the benefit of Sub-Saharan African Member States, and **bears in mind** the IOFS decision to rename its activities therein as Africa Food Security Initiative (AFSI) and requests the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to support the IOFS to successfully implement these programmes;
8. **Further takes note** of the decisions taken by the 5th IOFS General Assembly held virtually on 10th-11th October, 2022, under the chairmanship of the Republic of Tunisia, and **encourages** the Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to cooperate with the IOFS;
9. **Underscores** the vital role played by civil society in being as a support tool to implement various projects in the domain of food security and agricultural development, and to this end, **takes note** of the initiative to hold an IOFS Annual Civil Society Forum, which should be held in closer collaboration and coordination with the Member States by identifying their trusted civil society organizations working in the field of i) food security; ii) agricultural development; and iii) humanitarian assistance;
10. **Takes note** of the IOFS decision to establish three (3) IOFS regional offices in Africa, Arab and Asia regions in accordance with OIC regional groupings, and to this end, **requests** the IOFS Secretariat to prepare the feasibility study for the establishment of such offices and submit it to the General Assembly for further consideration. The study shall be submitted to the next meeting of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural, and Social Affairs to take a decision thereon;
11. **Mandates** IOFS, IsDB and SESRIC to design a strategic plan for ensuring food security in the Member States and for this plan to be presented for the consideration of the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development to be held in 2023;
12. **Encourages** Member States to make special contributions to IOFS with a view to accelerating the consolidation of its structures;

13. **Welcomes** the initiative to establish cooperation between the Secretariats of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and IOFS, which was announced by the Republic of Kazakhstan at the Sixth CICA Summit held on 12-13 October 2022 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

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

Taking note of the outcome of the 33rd Board of Directors (BoD) and 38th General Assembly Meetings of ICCIA, which were held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, on 17th - 18th July, 2022,

Emphasizing the role of ICCIA, as an engine of mobilizing investment, influencing the policy making and undertaking different initiatives for the development of the private sector through the chambers of commerce of OIC Member States,

Bearing in mind the continuous efforts of ICCIA towards initiating a wide range of workshops in areas of interest to the Member Chambers with a view to enhancing the capacity and quality of their institution through ICCIA Academy,

Taking note of the outcomes of the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the OIC Arbitration Centre held online on 13th October, 2022,

Welcoming ICCIA publications with an aim to increase private sector partnerships through OIC-specific knowledge products on the economic landscape, sector-specific databases and capacity-building reports for financial assistance and **noting** that the publications are now accessible on ICCIA social media platforms and its official website,

Noting with appreciation the role of ICCIA in the international fora as a representative of the private sector of the global south, promoting priority sectors such as Halal, Islamic microfinance, agri-business, digital transformations, and promotion of South-South Cooperation within the Private sector,

Encouraging the Chambers of Commerce of OIC Member States to be actively involved in ICCIA's activities related to the establishment of ICCIA holding companies, to invest in important areas of development,

Noting with satisfaction the signing of the MOU between ICCIA and IOFS on 14th February, 2022, to enhance the efforts of both organizations for the development of food value chain,

Also noting with satisfaction the signing of the MOU between ICCIA and ICYF in March 2022 to enhance the cooperation for the execution of OIC Entrepreneurship Forum,

Further noting with appreciation the efforts of ICCIA to encourage South-South Cooperation for the Least Developed Countries in G5 Sahel Region,

Having considered the activity report submitted by the ICCIA,

1. **Appreciates** the decision of the 33rd Meeting of ICCIA Board of Directors to establish the following, for the development of Chambers of Commerce and Associations to achieve digitization and sustainability:
 - a. Digital Transformation Council;
 - b. ICCIA Accreditation Program;
2. **Welcomes** the MOU signed between ICCIA and Chad Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, Mines and Handicrafts to execute the ICCIA's Chad Economic Recovery Post Covid 19 Strategy and **take notes** of the following projects to be implemented under this strategy:
 - a. Islamic Microfinance Banks;
 - b. Green Waqf Initiative; and
 - c. Training Program on Digital Transformation for SMEs and Chambers of Commerce;
3. **Acknowledges** the tri-partite MOU signed between ICCIA, Mauritania Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture, and Ministry of Agriculture Mauritania for the launch of the Green Waqf Initiative in Mauritania;
4. **Calls upon** the agriculture ministry of Pakistan to facilitate the successful execution of the ICCIA Green Waqf Initiative in alignment with a national development action plan of Pakistan through resource mobilization and linkages with relevant research institutions and ministries;
5. **Also calls upon** the agricultural and trade ministries of Nigeria to facilitate the ICCIA for the establishment of Agriculture Commodity Exchange Markets to promote agricultural commodities and support the Nigerian national action plan for its supply chain;
6. **Encourages** the OIC financial institutions such as IsDB to support ICCIA mobilize funds for the establishment of an Agri-Incubation Centre in Pakistan to support food security and entrepreneurship;
7. **Appreciates** ICCIA for the successful execution of the following events organized for the development of the Private Sector in OIC Member States:
 - a. Launch of ICCIA Workshop Series on Microfinance Directions;
 - b. Best of Entrepreneurship Series, Pakistan;
 - c. Workshop on Creating Awareness of the Importance of Agriculture Commodity Exchange Markets, Izmir, Türkiye;
 - d. Workshop on the Knowledge Economy on the sideline of the 17th OIC Trade Fair, Dakar, Senegal;
 - e. Country Focus Webinar Series: Egypt and Azerbaijan; and
 - f. ICCIA Leadership Talk Webinars on Sustainability, Modest Fashion, Women Empowerment, and Muslim Business Leaders.

8. **Takes note** of the following activities to be organized by the ICCIA and **calls upon** the relevant ministries and the private sector from countries such as Pakistan, Egypt, Mauritania, Nigeria, and Chad to appoint focal persons to ensure the success of the following events:
 - a. Halal Food Festival, Pakistan;
 - b. Microfinance and Transition to Sustainability series;
 - c. Best of Entrepreneurship in Pakistan and Egypt;
 - d. Regional Workshop on Agricultural Entrepreneurship, Mauritania;
 - e. Workshop on promoting Strategic Agricultural Products (Cassava, Coffee, and Cocoa), Nigeria; and
 - f. Training program on Digital Transformation for SMEs and Chamber of Commerce, Chad.

9. **Encourages** OIC Member States such as Azerbaijan, Jordan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and Morocco to appoint focal persons for coordination of the planned mega events in their countries as follows:
 - a. The Sustainable Agriculture Forum, Azerbaijan;
 - b. The Digital Economy Forum, Jordan;
 - c. The Sustainable Tourism Forum, Pakistan;
 - d. BIG3 Forum of Major Products (Tea, Coffee, and Cocoa), Indonesia;
 - e. Islamic Exhibition for Goods and Services, Mecca, Saudi Arabia;
 - f. Global Muslim Business Forum, Malaysia; and
 - g. Forum on Traditional Handicrafts and Heritage Industries, Morocco.

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

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

Welcoming the membership of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Tajikistan, which has increased the number of SMIIC Member States to 45 along with 3 Observers as of 1st January, 2023,

Expressing its appreciation to SMIIC for supporting the organization of the 8th World Halal Summit (WHS) under the theme: “For a Sustainable Trade: Explore All Aspects of the Growing Global Halal Industry” in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 24th-26th November, 2022, which was aimed at raising awareness of halal products, engaging in halal production and services in all fields and bringing together market leaders and halal product experts,

Acknowledging the capacity building activities of SMIIC for OIC Member States in the fields of quality infrastructure elements,

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

Noting with satisfaction the organization of the 11th SMIIIC Technical Committee Week Meetings and SMIIIC Committee on Standards for Conformity Assessment (SMIIIC/CCA) Meetings from 17th to 21st October, 2022, in Istanbul, Türkiye,

Welcoming the publication of a total 50 OIC/SMIIIC standards, 17 of which are on Halal issues, following the completion of standards development process professionally conducted in the relevant SMIIIC Technical Committees in 2022:

- OIC/SMIIIC 27: 2022 - Woven Carpets used for Masjids – Under Publication;
- OIC/SMIIIC 37: 2022 - Halal Products- Usage of Animal Bone, Skin and Hair- General Guidelines;
- OIC/SMIIIC 47: 2022 – Dates for Industrial Purposes;
- OIC/SMIIIC 51:2022 – Hygiene and Sanitation Management System – Requirements.

Acknowledging that SMIIIC organized the OIC SMIIIC 1 Halal Auditor Training for Arab Region in virtual format on 10th -12th October, 2022, and the OIC SMIIIC 1 Halal Auditor training for Central Asian Region in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 27th -29th October, 2022, within the framework of the project titled “Promotion of OIC/SMIIIC Halal Standards use in the Asian and Arab Region” which is funded under the COMCEC Project Funding,

Welcoming the organization, in collaboration with COMSTECH Secretariat and the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), of the training course entitled “OIC/SMIIIC Halal Products Standards and Testing” in Uganda on 22nd -26th August, 2022, with an aim to encourage the harmonization of halal standards used in the OIC Member States and internationally by aiding in the adoption and use of the OIC/SMIIIC halal standards,

Acknowledging the approval and implementation of the SMIIIC Strategic Plan 2021-2030, which shows SMIIIC’s commitment to have strong partnerships and engagement with OIC and other relevant organizations, and the importance of the continuous support and devotion to be successful,

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

1. **Urges** the Member States to accede to the membership of SMIIIC, which works on the specialized areas of the standardization, metrology and accreditation activities under the mandate of OIC as the sole intergovernmental organization;
2. **Requests** the Member States to actively participate in SMIIIC’s Technical Committees (TCs) and other technical activities of SMIIIC Councils on standardization, metrology and accreditation;
3. **Calls upon** OIC Member States to officially adopt published OIC/SMIIIC standards according to SMIIIC adoption guidelines in order to have unique world-wide quality infrastructure system-based on OIC/SMIIIC standards;

4. **Requests** the Member States and OIC institutions to engage in close cooperation with SMIIC on standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment activities in order to improve the quality infrastructure systems of the OIC Member States, which are classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
5. **Calls upon** the Member States to participate in the OIC Halal Expo 2023 and 9th World Halal Summit 2023 to be held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, which will be conventionnaly organized by the SMIIC General Secretariat, in coordination with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT);
6. **Calls upon** the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) to support SMIIC and provide it with any necessary fatwa and advice, particularly regarding Halal issues;
7. **Requests** the Member States and OIC institutions to participate and contribute to the various capacity building and training programs conducted by SMIIC on standardization, metrology and accreditation, especially on Halal related OIC/SMIIC standards, and to coordinate with SMIIC for the organization of any activity on the above mentioned subjects in their respective countries and organizations;
8. **Invites** IsDB Group and relevant OIC institutions to support SMIIC with training and necessary funding programmes in the fields of standardization, metrology, accreditation and improvement in quality infrastructure as well as to include in the programmes related to the activities in the mandate of SMIIC;
9. **Invites** the Member States to be involved in the OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure (OHAQ) system based on OIC/SMIIC standards and **requests** the Member States to forward all subjects related to the standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assesment to be evaluated within SMIIC.

F. GENERAL PROVISION:

Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a comprehensive report on each item appearing from A to E to the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.



OIC/11-ICTM/2022/RES/Final

Original: *English*

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

ADOPTED BY

THE 11th SESSION

OF THE

**ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS
(ICTM)**

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
27th – 29th June, 2022

RESOLUTION ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE OIC MEMBER STATES

The Eleventh Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held from 27-29 June 2022, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, under the Theme: ‘The Role of Local Communities in Tourism Development’,

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 the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Tripoli, Libya, on 16th -22nd May, 1977,

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

Re-affirming the resolutions adopted by the various sessions of the CFM, particularly, resolution No. 1/46-E of the Forty Sixth Session of CFM, held Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 1st -2nd March, 2019,

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

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

Also re-affirming the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States, adopted by the 10th ICTM, held in Dhaka, People’s Republic of Bangladesh, on 6th -7th February, 2018,

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

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

Expressing satisfaction at the outcome of the Workshop on Improving Islamic Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Member States: Destination and Industry Development, held in Malatya, Republic of Türkiye, on 9th -12th July, 2018,

Also expressing satisfaction at the outcome of the Training Workshop on Developing Muslim-Friendly Tourism in Suriname and Guyana organized by ICDT, held in Paramaribo, Suriname, on 15th -17th July, 2019,

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

Also welcoming the launching of Dhaka as OIC City of Tourism for 2019, held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 11th -12th July, 2019,

Expressing satisfaction at the outcome of the “*International Seminar on Development of Muslim Friendly Tourism in the Dhaka City*” and “the Award Ceremony”, organized by SESRIC in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 15th October, 2019,

Taking note, with appreciation, of the Report titled “*International Tourism in the OIC Countries 2022: Prospects and Challenges amid the COVID-19 Pandemic*”, which was prepared and presented by SESRIC,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of 35th Session of the COMCEC in the field of tourism held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 25th -28th November, 2019,

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

Expressing appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for organising the Ninth OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Forum under the theme of “*COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Tourism Sector and Recovery Strategies*”, held virtually, on 16th November 2021,

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

Expressing its gratitude to the State of Kuwait for organizing with ICDT the Exceptional Edition of the tourism, handcraft and interior design Fair, on 18 – 23 December 2019,

Taking note of the organization by ICDT and SESRIC of the Training Webinar on tourism destination marketing strategies, on 2-4 March 2021 and the Training Webinar on the prospects of sustainable tourism in OIC Member Countries on 1-2 June 2022 and welcoming their initiative to organize jointly in November 2022 a Training Webinar on health tourism in OIC Member States,

Also taking note of the activities of the relevant OIC institutions towards implementation of the resolutions of the ICTM, particularly those relating to the commemoration of Tabriz, Dhaka and Gabala, as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively, capacity-building programmes in the domain of tourism within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme of SESRIC, and implementation of the Regional Project on “*Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa*”,

Considering the outcome of the Seventh Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26 June 2022 with regard to the selection of the OIC City of Tourism Awardees for 2023 and 2024 respectively,

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

1. **Approves** the selection of Şanlıurfa, Republic of Türkiye, as the OIC City of Tourism for 2023 and Khiva, Republic of Uzbekistan, as the OIC City of Tourism for 2024;
2. **Commends** the elaborate plans by the relevant OIC institutions for the commemoration of Dhaka, as the OIC City of Tourism for 2019 and Gabala, as the OIC City of Tourism for 2020 and **urges** OIC Member States to actively participate in the various activities in awardee cities for 2023 and 2024;
3. **Urges** all Member States and relevant OIC institutions to implement the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States, and organize annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flows, through visa facilitation, investment promotion, branding and standardization, and capacity building;
4. **Invites** ICDT to submit a relevant implementation plan on the findings contained in the Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market;
5. **Invites** the Member States to express to the OIC General Secretariat and ICDT willingness to host the 3rd OIC Tourism Fair during second half of 2023;
6. **Calls on** the Member States, IsDB Group and other funding institutions, bilateral and multilateral development assistance bodies, enterprises and institutions of the private sector and concerned OIC institutions, including ICDT and SESRIC, to contribute to the implementation of the Regional Project of Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa, including the 2nd Donors Conference to facilitate the implementation of this Project;
7. **Invites** the OIC Member States to review their existing hygiene, safety, and vaccination protocols on COVID-19 with a view to easing existing pandemic-related travel restrictions in a timely manner, which will help recovery of international tourism activities;
8. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to invest in capacity development activities and programmes to improve the skills of national tourism stakeholders and support the recovery efforts in the sector;
9. **Urges** the OIC Member States to extend various types of financial support to relevant national tourism stakeholders in coping with the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic such as tax breaks, subsidies, and investment funds according to their national legislations;
10. **Invites** the OIC Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to share their experiences and good practices in responding to the unprecedented crisis in the tourism sector and innovative policies on restarting tourism activities rapidly amidst the COVID-19 pandemic with a view to enhancing the intra-OIC tourism cooperation;

11. **Invites** the relevant OIC institutions to organize training programmes and activities on new developments, regulations and opportunities in the tourism sector in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic with a view to enhancing the capacities of national tourism stakeholders and policymakers in the OIC Member States;
12. **Encourages** the OIC Member States to enhance the cooperation with international and regional tourism agencies and institutions in order to effectively follow-up new developments in the sector and facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills and experiences;
13. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to effectively benefit from the programmes and projects offered by the relevant OIC organs/institutions like COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IRCICA, ISESCO, ICCIA and SMIIC that would help in developing capacities and exchanging of experiences;
14. **Commends** the efforts of IRCICA on preservation and promotion of written, tangible and intangible heritage assets and their linkage with tourism by organizing serious of sessions on the written, artistic and archeological heritage assets, including the collections of historical manuscripts and inscriptions on monuments, which are important for cultural tourism in the Member States;
15. **Takes note** of the efforts of IRCICA to prepare a programme for the implementation of Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handcrafts aimed at stimulating innovations by encouraging artisans be more creative, while drawing attention of craftsmen to their important role in preserving crafts and heritages;
16. **Encourages** the OIC Member States to review their existing visa policies visa-a-vis for citizens of OIC Member States and facilitate the issuance of visa based on the reciprocity principle to stimulate the intra-OIC tourism cooperation according to their national legislations;
17. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to invest in 'digitalization' for promoting and marketing of their respective destinations as well as improving international visitors' experience in the tourism sector with a view to speeding up the recovery efforts and hosting more international tourists;
18. **Encourages** the OIC Member States to invest in the diversification of tourism products such as by focusing on some niche markets like Islamic tourism, ecotourism and medical tourism both during and beyond the pandemic according to their national legislations;
19. **Invites** the OIC Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to share their experiences and good practices for the development of Islamic tourism including various aspects like Halal standardization, Halal certification, Islamic tourism product development, marketing and promotion;
20. **Invites** the OIC Member States to explore the possibility of involving the private sector organizations to participate in the infrastructural development projects in the newly liberated territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

21. **Invites** the OIC Member States to encourage their citizens to visit Palestine in particular Al-Quds Al-Sharif through the Jordanian Palestinian border crossing gate to express economic support and solidarity with Palestinians;
22. **Encourages** the OIC Member States for positive response to the climate change, to work implementing initiatives, projects to develop tourism sector, and to promote and contribute effectively to the international efforts toward protecting nature and societies;
23. **Further encourages** the OIC Member States and other stakeholders to always provide facilities for tourists with special needs;
24. **Welcomes** the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan to hold a “Annual Islamic Tourism Week” in Uzbekistan in the fall of 2022 under the patronage of the OIC and strongly encourages the Member States of the OIC to take an active part in the event;
25. **Calls on** the OIC and its relevant institutions especially SESRIC and COMCEC to organize a workshop for Tourism Boards of African Member States to strengthen their capacities in the development of tourism;
26. **Further calls on** these institutions to compile and produce a comprehensive directory of tourism in all its forms, including tourism sites and heritage in the OIC Member States in Africa as part of efforts to put these countries on the OIC and international tourism map and destinations;
27. **Welcomes** the initiative of the ICDT to prepare studies on sustainable tourism and health tourism and their impacts on the expansion of intra-OIC trade;
28. **Invites** Member States and OIC Institutions to provide support to ICDT, SESRIC and the project stakeholders with a view to accelerating the implementation of the “Regional Project on sustainable tourism development in a network of cross-border parks and protected areas in West Africa”, that is essential for the socio-economic development of West African region;
29. **Commends** the efforts of the COMCEC towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States especially in tourism domain through the COMCEC Tourism Working Group and COMCEC Project Financial Support Instruments;
30. **Welcomes** the efforts of COMCEC Tourism Working Group towards producing and disseminating knowledge, sharing experiences and good practices and producing concrete policy options to address the common challenges of the member countries in the area of tourism;
31. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the Tenth Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum in the second half of 2022, and calls upon the Member States to encourage their private sector entities to actively participate in

this important event;

32. **Also welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host First OIC Forum on Sustainable Tourism, in collaboration with OIC General Secretariat and ICCIA, and requests the Member States and other stakeholders to actively participate in the Forum;
33. **Invites** the OIC Member States and OIC Institutions to share good practices and policies for the development of Islamic tourism;
34. **Appreciates** the SMIIC for the development and adoption of the “OIC/SMIIC 9:2019-Halal Tourism Services; General requirements” standards and **calls on** the OIC Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to raise awareness among tourism stakeholders on these standards for the development and standardization in delivery of Islamic tourism services;
35. **Expresses** its profound thanks and gratitude to the Government and the people of Azerbaijan for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the successful conclusion of the Eleventh Session of the ICTM;
36. **Welcomes** the offer by the Republic of Uzbekistan to host the Twelfth Session of ICTM in 2024, and State of Qatar to host the Thirteenth Session of the ICTM in 2026;
37. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow up on the implementation of this Resolution and submit a report to the Twelfth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers.

Original: English

RESOLUTIONS
OF THE THIRTY EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC
(İstanbul, Türkiye, 26-29 November 2022)

The Thirty-Eighth Ministerial Session of the COMCEC (Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) was held on 26-29 November 2022, in İstanbul;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019, which commended the role of the COMCEC under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Türkiye, in contributing to the realization of OIC objectives in the economic domain and highly commended the successful implementation of the COMCEC revised Statute and the Strategy adopted at the Fourth Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009, the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 37th Session of the COMCEC;

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

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

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

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

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

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

1- Welcomes the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy; commends the Member Countries and the OIC Institutions for their valuable contributions to its implementation and requests the Member Countries and the OIC Institutions to further their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

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

3- Welcomes the successful convening of the 18th and 19th rounds of the COMCEC Working Groups Meetings (17th and 18th rounds for Financial Cooperation WG) in the cooperation areas in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the 37th Session of the COMCEC and also welcomes the research reports conducted by the COMCEC Coordination Office for enriching the discussions in the meetings of the COMCEC Working Groups.

4- Commends the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member Countries in their fields of competence and welcomes the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings in 2022.

5- Commending the efforts of the Member Countries and the OIC Institutions for the realization of COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, invites all the Member Countries to exert every effort, to the extent possible, to implement the Policy Recommendations and requests the OIC Institutions to support the Member Countries to this end.

6- Calls upon the Member Countries utilize the COMCEC Policy Follow-up System to submit necessary information and data on the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations in their respective countries.

7- Expresses its appreciation to the SESRIC for the activities, particularly capacity building and training programmes, contributing to the implementation of the COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations in the six cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy.

8- Commending the valuable outcomes of projects financed by COMCEC since 2014, welcomes that sixteen projects are being implemented in 2022 and invites Member Countries to intensify their efforts to harness the benefits of COMCEC Project Funding particularly with a view to materialize the Ministerial Policy Recommendations.

9- Welcomes the 10th Call for Project Proposals made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in October 2022 within the framework of COMCEC Project Funding.

10- Taking into consideration the need for increasing the number of projects and expanding their scope within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding and the deliberations held during the Ministerial Working Session, requests the COMCEC Coordination Office to undertake the necessary work for mobilizing voluntary contributions from the interested Member Countries for this purpose.

11- Commended the efforts of the Member Countries for successful implementation of eight projects in 2021 and initiation of six projects in 2022 under the COMCEC COVID Response.

12- Invites the Member Countries to ensure the participation of the COMCEC National Focal Points and COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, to the COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meetings and the COMCEC Sessions, to the extent possible.

13- Encourages the Member Countries, which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups.

14- Noting with appreciation that the number of Member Countries having registered to at least one COMCEC Working Group has reached 50, requests the Member Countries, which have not done so yet, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups.

15- Taking note with appreciation that the member countries namely Indonesia, The Gambia, Nigeria and Türkiye have already set up national coordination mechanisms for facilitating the coordination of COMCEC related work particularly the implementation of the COMCEC Resolutions and Ministerial Policy Recommendations at the national level, encourages the other Member Countries to set up similar coordination mechanisms for these purposes.

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

17- Expresses its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IsDB Group, ICD, ICIEC, ITFC, ICCIA, SMIIC and IOFS for their efforts towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

18- Reiterates the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, which emphasize the role of COMCEC in ensuring the overall coordination of the activities of the OIC relating to economic and commercial cooperation among the Member Countries, in accordance with its mandate and also emphasizes the role of COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) in undertaking activities with the Member Countries, the OIC Institutions and other international organizations in order to realize the objectives of the COMCEC as outlined in its Statute.

19- Also reiterates its request to the OIC Institutions working in the economic and commercial domains to continue coordination with the COMCEC Coordination Office, including through the Sessional Committee, in order to ensure progress and complementarity in the implementation of both the COMCEC Strategy and the OIC 2025: Program of Action, especially in the areas of trade and investment.

20- Adopts the recommendations of the 38th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held in Ankara on 24-25 May 2022.

21- Requests the concerned Member Countries to actively participate in the activities to be organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IsDB Group (ITFC), ICCIA, and SMIIC in the cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy and calls upon these institutions to send invitations to the Member Countries sufficiently in advance of the meetings so as to ensure their participation.

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

22- Takes note of the report presented by the OIC General Secretariat on the implementation of the economic and commercial component of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action (PoA).

23- Underlining the importance of the active follow-up of the economic and commercial section of the PoA by the COMCEC, requests the OIC General Secretariat to regularly submit comprehensive progress reports on the implementation of the Programme to the COMCEC Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

24- Commends the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat for organizing the Sixth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) in Jeddah, OIC Headquarters on 1415 December 2022.

25- Recalling the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Sessions, requests the Member States, who have not done so yet, to sign and ratify the agreements in the economic domain for furthering economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

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

26- Takes note of the findings highlighted in the SESRIC's report titled "OIC Economic Outlook 2022: Achieving Sustainable and Resilient Recovery Post COVID-19 Pandemic", and acknowledges the valuable contribution of its special section that highlights a number of non-binding policy measures for strengthening economic resilience to future shocks beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

27- Noting the report's emphasis on the growing trend of geopolitical risks and threat of conflicts as well as the challenges associated with climate change, encourages the Member States to take into account the highlighted measures while devising appropriate policies and strategies to strengthen their economic resilience to future shocks.

28- Commends the OIC Institutions' efforts in helping the member countries in their efforts towards mitigating the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, among others, publication titled "Socio-Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in OIC Countries: Pathways for Sustainable and Resilient Recovery", COVID19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries, and various training and capacity building programs conducted by SESRIC.

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

Intra-OIC Trade (Agenda Item: 5)

30- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the 18th and 19th Meetings of the COMCEC Trade Working Group on 11 May 2022 and 4 October 2022, respectively in a virtual-only format, with the theme of “Increasing Internationalization of SMEs in the OIC Member Countries”, welcomes its following policy recommendations:

- Promoting formalization of SMEs and eliminating informality through, among others, reducing the time and cost of registration and reducing administrative burdens,
- Adopting a uniform SME definition and clearly identifying the objectives of SME-related laws and regulations,
- Making SME internationalization a part of national policy documents by developing an SME strategy, setting out the strategy in a multi-year document and positioning SME internationalization policies in the context of broader policy frameworks,
- Supporting the institutional framework by necessary financial means and government guarantees to facilitate SMEs' access to finance as they move into international markets,
- Categorizing SMEs in terms of their capacity and potential for internationalization and involve them in export assistance programs based on the results of the sorting system,
- Supporting managerial and human resources of the SMEs in line with the requirements of successful internationalization,
- Providing guiding mechanisms for SMEs to improve their products according to the market- and product-specific required standards and certifications,
- Supporting SME branding by creating a national brand and including the SMEs' products in the national brand,
- Conducting impact analysis of implemented programs regularly and monitoring and evaluation, and share transparently with the relevant stakeholders. (Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

31- Calls upon the Member Countries which have registered to the COMCEC Trade Working Group to attend the 20th and 21st Meetings of the COMCEC Trade Working Group to be held with the theme of “Improving e-Commerce Capacities of the OIC Member Countries” in 2023.

32- Commends the efforts of Palestine, Lebanon, Morocco, Indonesia and SMIIC for the following projects being implemented in 2022 under the ninth project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding: The project entitled “Enhancing Palestinian Limestone-SMEs Internationalization” being implemented by Palestine,

- The project entitled “Developing a Roadmap for Establishing National Trade Facilitation Body in Lebanon” being implemented by Lebanon,
- The project entitled “Accelerating customs clearance of goods between OIC Member countries through the exchange of Electronic Certificate of Origin” being implemented by Morocco,
- The project entitled “Upscaling exports strategy and market access assistance for SMEs” being implemented by Indonesia,

□ The project entitled “Promotion of OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards use in the Asian and Arab Region” being implemented by SMIIC with 17 beneficiary Member Countries.

33- Also commends the efforts of Senegal for the project titled “Resilience Program against Covid-19 for the Digital Management of Agricultural Markets” being implemented in 2022 within the scope of 2nd Call for COMCEC COVID Response.

34- Taking into consideration the vital role of Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) for our economies in terms of production, investment, employment and growth, welcomes the suggestion of the Republic of Türkiye on developing a well designed MSME Program and requests COMCEC Coordination Office in cooperation with the interested Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to initiate technical studies with the relevant stakeholders and to report the progress thereon to the 39th Follow-up Committee and the 39th COMCEC Session.

35- Recalling the relevant resolution of the 14th Islamic Summit Conference, calls on Member Countries to take the necessary measures that would exempt Palestinian goods and commodities from customs duties, duties and taxes of similar effect, without quantitative or qualitative restrictions, which would have a positive effect on strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their own territory and supporting the efforts of the State of Palestine to put an end to the Israeli occupation.

36- Takes note of the ICDDT’s recent data on “Trade among the OIC Member Countries” indicating that the intra-OIC net trade volume reached US\$ 367.9 billion in 2021 compared to US\$ 350.4 billion in 2019 mainly due to the enhancement the intra-regional trade among Member Countries and the soaring commodities prices including oil, mining and food products and thereby the share of intra-OIC Trade in the overall foreign trade of Member Countries increased slightly from 18.95% in 2019 to 19.04% in 2021.

37- Takes note with appreciation that the Second TISC Leaders Meeting organized in Marrakesh on 8-9 March 2022 in order to boost their integrated activities in the field of trade and investment for the benefit of OIC Countries on four thematic technical committees: Trade financing and insurance, trade facilitation and investment promotion, Halal Industry including Tourism, and Strategic commodities including COVID-19 products.

38- Expresses its appreciation to ICDDT and partner countries as well as institutions for organizing the following workshops, webinars, trainings, and Forums in trade domain:

□ Webinars organized by ICDDT on participating and organizing trade fairs, MSMEs COVID Resilience, pricing and documentation of export, MSMEs trade negotiation techniques, international trade risks, payment modality, incoterms new rules between January to December 2022,

□ A training webinar on exports strategies of food products for SMEs of Cameroon on 2-3 February 2022,

□ Forum of the OIC Investment Promotion Agencies on Policy dialogue in Dakar on 15 June 2022 by the Republic of Senegal, ICDDT, IsDB CCD, BADEA,

□ The OIC Senegal Investment Forum in Dakar on 16-17 June 2022,

□ A Training program on Halal Certification for African Countries in Dakar on 15-16 June 2022,

□ A workshop was conducted by ICCIA on the Knowledge Economy in Dakar on 14 June 2022,

□ The 1st Meeting of Intergovernmental Experts Group on the Establishment of a Permanent Organ & Mechanism for Settlement of Investment Disputes in Casablanca on 3-6 October 2022.

39- Welcomes that the relevant member countries will host the following events:

□ Kingdom of Morocco will host the Workshop on the digitization of IPA Services in collaboration with ICDT, IsDB in Casablanca on 19-20 December 2022,

□ Republic of Uganda will organize with ICDT the OIC Coffee Meet in Kampala on 7-8 March 2023,

□ Islamic Republic of Pakistan will host the Pakistan-Africa Business Forum in collaboration with ICDT and other OIC Institutions on the margin of the 18th OIC Trade Fair,

□ Republic of Cote d'Ivoire will organize with ICDT the OIC-Cote Invest in Abidjan on 16-17 March 2023,

40- Requests the Member Countries to keep on providing the ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations and entrusted IsDB and ICDT to follow up the issue of the expansion of intra-OIC trade and report to the COMCEC and to other OIC fora.

41- Expresses its appreciation to SESRIC and ITFC for preparing a joint study on "Impacts of Trade Facilitation and Logistics Performance on Trade Flows: The Case of Landlocked African OIC Countries".

42- Appreciates SESRIC for organizing training courses, webinars, and workshops in the trade sector, particularly on international trade statistics within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

i) TPS-OIC

43- Welcomes that the TPS-OIC has been effectuated as of July 1st, 2022 in line with relevant resolutions of the 37th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC and the decisions of the TPS-OIC Trade Negotiating Committee.

44- Requests the Participating States, which have not done so yet, to expedite the completion of their internal procedures and other preparations at the earliest convenience and notify the TNC Secretariat accordingly.

45- Takes note with appreciation that the Gulf Cooperation Council would provide its most updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat at the earliest convenience, on behalf of its six member countries namely; Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman.

46- Recalling the relevant resolution of the 37th Session of the COMCEC, takes note of the observations made by some TPS-OIC participating states that once the system becomes operational more advanced trade arrangements need to be initiated immediately within the framework of the TPS-OIC.

47- Calls upon the Member Countries, which have not yet signed or ratified the TPS-OIC Agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and the Rules of Origin, to do so at their earliest convenience and complete other procedures for joining the System.

48- Requests the ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office, IsDB and other relevant OIC Institutions to continue organizing awareness-raising and capacity-building activities with regards to the TPS-OIC.

49- Welcomes the convening of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) on November 27th, 2022, on the margins of the 38th COMCEC Session and takes note with appreciation of TNC's following decisions:

- (i) preparation of a checklist in order to track record of implementation
- (ii) redistribution of concession lists through diplomatic channels,
- (iii) resolution of HS codes transposition issues with the technical assistance TNC Secretariat,
- (iv) organization of a follow-up meeting at expert level,
- (v) clarification of modalities to apply on the preparation of GCC's concession list with its all technical and legal implications by the TNC Secretariat.

50- Also welcomes the convening of Ministers of Trade, Finance and Economy on 29th November 2022 on the margins of 38th COMCEC Session where the Honorable Ministers reiterated the importance of increasing intra-OIC trade particularly through full implementation of TPS-OIC and indicated their willingness to extend the scope of TPS-OIC.

ii) Islamic Trade Fairs

51- Expresses its appreciation to the Republic of Senegal for hosting the 17th OIC Trade Fair of the OIC Member Countries in Dakar on 13-19 June 2022, in cooperation with ICDT.

52- Welcomes that the following Member Countries will host Islamic Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in cooperation with ICDT and requests all Member Countries to encourage active participation of their private sector and relevant institutions in these events:

- The Kingdom of Bahrain to host the "Bahrain Halal Expo" on 4-6 May 2023 in collaboration with ICDT and SMIIC,
- The Republic of Senegal to host the "5th OIC Health Expo" in Dakar on 18-21 May 2023 in collaboration with International Center for Foreign Trade of Senegal,
- The Republic of Tunisia to host the "10th OIC Halal Expo" in Tunis on 31 May-4 June 2023 in collaboration with ICDT and SMIIC,
- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the "18th OIC Trade Fair" on the theme of "Women Empowerment through Entrepreneurship" in cooperation with ICDT in Lahore on 16-18 June 2023 in collaboration with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and relevant OIC Institutions,
- The Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to host the "2nd OIC Cotton, Textiles and Clothing Expo" in Abidjan on 19-22 July 2023.

53- Referring relevant decision of the 48th Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers invites the General Secretariat to constitute a coordination committee for the 18th OIC Trade Fair to be hosted by Pakistan in Lahore on 16-18 June 2023 comprising COMCEC Coordination Office, ICDT, ICCIA, IsDB, ITFC, SESRIC and any other relevant OIC Institutions.

54- Requests ICDT to continue holding sector specific fairs in cooperation with the Member Countries and submit on regular basis, progress reports on the Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries

and the other specialized fairs as well as exhibitions to the COMCEC Sessions and to organize investment promotion activities such as high-level forums and capacity building programs at national and regional level in order to enhance intra-OIC Investment.

iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance

55- Expresses its thanks and appreciation to the IsDB Group and ICDT for organizing WTO-related training courses and seminars and calls on IsDB and ICDT to continue providing technical assistance to the Member Countries on WTO-related issues and to enhance their efforts in sensitizing the Member Countries to the impact of WTO trade negotiations on their economies by monitoring matters relating to WTO activities and reporting them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned fora.

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

57- Also calls upon the Member Countries and the relevant OIC institutions to extend support to the Member Countries who need technical assistance on trade facilitation practices towards the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

58- Requests ICDT and IsDB to develop a technical assistance program for the benefit of the State of Palestine on WTO-Trade Negotiations, Trade Facilitation, Training Local Negotiators, Market Access Strategies of the National SMEs through reverse linkage program with other Member Countries.

59- Expresses its appreciation to ICDT and IsDB RCI for organizing a webinar on the preparation of the 12th WTO Ministerial Meeting on May 31st, 2022 in collaboration with WTO Secretariat for the benefit of OIC Member Countries.

60- Expresses its appreciation to ICDT and IsDB CCD for organizing a workshop on TIR/eTIR and CMR/eCMR of the OIC African Countries in Casablanca, Morocco on 28-29 June 2022 in collaboration with UNECE and IRU.

iv) Trade Financing Activities

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

62- Takes note with appreciation that ITFC's cumulative approvals and disbursement in trade finance reached, since its inception in 2008 until the end of 2021, USD\$ 66.5 billion and USD\$ 55.7 billion, respectively.

63- Takes note with appreciation that ITFC's cumulative funds mobilized from partner banks and financial institutions, since inception, reached US\$ 38.0 billion, reflecting ITFC's critical role as a catalyst to attract funding for large-ticket trade transactions for the benefit of OIC Member Countries.

64- Welcomes the efforts of ITFC for assisting the Member States in mitigating the adverse implications of COVID-19 pandemic, where under its Rapid Response Initiative ITFC allocated USD\$ 605 million for the purchase of medical supplies, food staples, and under its Recovery Response Initiative ITFC allocated additional USD\$ 945.0 million in favour of local and regional banks for the recovery of SMEs and the private sector participants from the negative impact of the pandemic.

65- Welcomes the efforts of ITFC for expanding the Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB) Program – ITFC and partner institutions continue to expand and implement the AATB Program, which is designed to promote trade and investments as a tool to expand economic opportunities and support inclusive and sustainable growth across the Arab and subSaharan OIC Member Countries.

66- Takes note with appreciation of the efforts of the ITFC in implementing Integrated Trade Solution Programmes, including Indonesia Coffee Development Programme, the Cotton Bridge Programme, and various programmes for Tunisia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, CIS Countries, Maldives, Burkina Faso and Comoros, aiming at improving the productivity, job creation, promoting exports and alleviating poverty through trade.

67- Takes note with appreciation of the trade development initiatives being implemented by ITFC under its various flagship programs including Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (AFTIAS), Arab Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB), Trade Development Fund, ITFC Global SMEs Program (a new country is covered which is Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), CIS Region Trade Development Program.

68- Takes note with appreciation of ITFC's contributions for the development of Islamic Trade Finance Industry in Member States, supporting training programs and workshops on Islamic finance and promoting Islamic Trade Finance solutions for cross border trade.

69- Welcomes ITFC's efforts to expand the scope of its trade finance products (LC Confirmation, SBLC, etc.), which is aimed at facilitating trade flows between the OIC Member States and beyond, enhancing partnerships with local and regional financial institutions for private sector and SME support.

70- Appreciates the efforts of the ICIEC as one of the leading multilateral export credit and investment insurance institutions in the world that provides Shariah-Compliant insurance and reinsurance solutions.

71- Takes note with appreciation the ICIEC's operations during 2021, which resulted in the amount of USD\$ 9.79 billion as business insured, bringing the cumulative amount of business insured since inception to USD\$ 83.31 billion and the role of ICIEC in supporting USD\$ 4.49 billion of Intra-OIC business insured, involving 40 countries.

72- Takes note of the Progress and the Implementation Plan Reports prepared by ICIEC on OIC Business Intelligence Programme and requests the ICIEC and SESRIC to complete the technical preparations for launching the Programme at the earliest.

73- Also takes note of the Proposal prepared by ICIEC, SESRIC, ICCIA and ICDT for organizing a Capacity Building Activities for potential beneficiaries of the Programme in the areas covered

under the core business of the Programme and requests the ICIEC, SESRIC, ICDT, and ICCIA to implement the Capacity Building Activities at the earliest.

v) Trade Related Activities of SMIIC

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

75- Invites the concerned Member Countries to become a member of SMIIC and actively participate in its technical committees (TCs), Metrology and Accreditation Councils.

76- Expresses its appreciation to the SMIIC for organizing capacity building activities in its field of competence and invites Member Countries to support to further increase its visibility in international fora, particularly through its accession as an observer to the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

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

78- Takes note with appreciation the development of the SMIIC 2021-2030 Strategic Plan and the OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure.

79- Express its thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the 9th OIC Halal Expo and 8th World Halal Summit in collaboration with SMIIC and ICDT on 24-27 November 2022, in Istanbul.

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

i. Private Sector Meetings:

80- Takes note of the efforts of ICCIA towards enhancing the capacity and quality of its member chambers through digital transformation.

81- Takes note with appreciation the role of ICCIA in the International fora as the representative of the Private Sector of Member Countries, promoting priority sectors such as Halal, Islamic banking, Agri-business, digital transformations, and promotion of women empowerment within the Private Sector.

82- Takes note of the new format called as “sector-specific forums” organized by ICCIA and encourages the Member Countries, the Chambers of Commerce of the Member Countries, and the relevant OIC institutions to be actively involved in the ICCIA’s activities in the areas of Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Tourism, Islamic Economy, Investment, Digital Economy, and Entrepreneurship to support the sustainable development of the OIC private sector for the resilient economic growth of the Member Countries.

83- Requests ICCIA in consultations with the Member Countries and the relevant OIC institutions to continue its efforts towards facilitation of ICCIA holding company projects such as a) Islamic Microfinance Bank b) Green Waqf c) Agricultural Incubation d) Agricultural Commodity Exchange Markets, and also calls upon the private sector of the Member Countries to consider partnerships in the mentioned projects.

84- Expresses its appreciation to SESRIC for organizing training courses and webinars on the private sector, particularly on business registers for business demography and entrepreneurship statistics, and strengthening private sector involvement in skills development within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme and the OIC-VET Programme.

ii. OIC Arbitration Center:

85- Requests the Member Countries to encourage their Chambers to actively participate in the work of the OIC Arbitration Center with a view to enhance the utilization of Center's services by their private sector.

iii) Financing Private Sector Development:

86- Commends the investment, financing, advisory and development activities of ICD for supporting the private sector development in OIC Member Countries.

87- Takes note with appreciation the efforts of ICD, which efficiently works towards financing private sector projects including SME projects in the Member Countries, and ICD's cumulative approvals stand at USD\$ 6.2 billion as well as cumulative disbursements totals USD\$ 4.1 billion since its inception in 1999.

88- Commends the important business synergies captured by ICD with other development finance institutions (including ITFC and ICIEC) during 2022 including coinvestments in 9 Sukuk transactions with a total value of more than USD\$ 500 million.

89- Welcomes the efforts of ICD for conducting special programs to promote women entrepreneurship including the BRAVE Women Program in Yemen, which enables the women entrepreneurs to obtain access to finance as well as novel e-commerce platform.

90- Requests ICD to regularly submit comprehensive reports regarding its efforts on promoting the private sector to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

Deepening Financial Cooperation (Agenda Item: 7)

91- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the 17th and 18th Meetings of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group virtually on 9 May 2022, and on 3 October 2022, respectively with the theme of "Standardization Efforts in Islamic Finance", and welcomes its policy recommendations submitted under the following:

Developing a comprehensive strategic master plan that clearly defines the standardization and harmonization requirements (at global and local levels),

- Establishing a centralized Shariah governance framework to ensure the compliance of the Islamic Financial Services Industry with standards on Shariah products, dispute resolution, and reporting,
- Ensuring periodical review of the standards so that they reflect current market dynamics and needs,
- Enhancing the legal, regulatory, and supervisory frameworks to create a level-playing field for all market participants,
- Enhancing the coordination among regulatory bodies and with international standardsetting bodies,
- Developing quality human capital by including standardization-related modules in the higher education curriculum/syllabus, conducting training and seminars, and introducing accreditation of Islamic Finance academic programmes.

92- Calls upon the Member Countries which have registered to the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group to actively participate in its 19th and 20th Meetings to be held with the theme of “Improving Cooperation among Central Banks in terms of Digital Currencies: Challenges and Prospects for OIC Member Countries” in 2023.

93- Commends the efforts of SESRIC for the project entitled “Strengthening Financial Literacy and Promoting Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries” being implemented by SESRIC in 2022 in partnership with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye, Bank Indonesia, and the Financial Services Authority of Indonesia for the benefit of 41 OIC Member Countries.

94- Expresses its appreciation to SESRIC for organizing training courses, training workshops and webinars related to financial cooperation, particularly on banking, insurance and financial statistics; government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics; and price statistics within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

i) OIC Exchanges Forum

95- Welcomes the report of the 16th Meeting of the OIC Exchanges Forum held virtually on October 11th, 2022.

96- Commends the efforts of the OIC Exchanges Forum and its Task Forces and invites the Member Countries to actively participate in the activities organized under this Forum.

97- Welcomes the offer of the Borsa İstanbul, as the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to host the 17th Meeting of the Forum in 2023 and calls upon the Member Countries to actively participate in this important event.

98- Commends the Task Force on Indices for successful completion of the establishment of S&P/OIC COMCEC 50 Shariah Index Fund, which has recently become available to international investors.

99- Taking note with appreciation the conduct of a panel discussion on “OIC Capital Markets and S&P/OIC COMCEC 50 Shariah Index Fund” on the sidelines of the 38th Session of the COMCEC, invites the Member States to engage in promotional and marketing activities for

potential investors in their respective countries to raise awareness about the S&P/OIC COMCEC 50 Shariah Index Fund.

100- Takes note of the briefing by Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum on the efforts towards establishing OIC Gold Exchange among the volunteering Member Countries and requests the Forum's Secretariat to advance the technical preparations on the new blockchain based model for the OIC Gold Exchange Project in cooperation with central banks and report the progress to the 39th COMCEC Session and Follow-up Committee Meeting.

101- Invites the interested Member States and their relevant institutions to actively support Forum's Task Force on Precious Metals by finding counterparts and designating focal points in their respective countries to lead the OIC Gold Exchange Project in order to contribute to the formulation of the business model for a well-functioning OIC Gold Exchange Market.

102- Takes note of with appreciation training course on "Capital Market Operations" organized by the OIC Exchanges Forum in collaboration with SESRIC on 11-12 May 2022.

103- Taking note of the Academic Conference titled "Sustainability and Islamic Finance in OIC Countries" held as part of the Forum program on October 12th, 2022, requests the Forum to continue to work on awareness raising, capacity building and training activities on sustainability.

104- Commends the efforts of SESRIC in organizing training and capacity-building activities on various technical and regulatory aspects related to the work of the Stock Exchanges and requests SESRIC, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, to organize such activities for the benefit of the Stock Exchanges and relevant national authorities in the Member States within the framework of SESRIC's Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SE-CaB).

ii) Cooperation among Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies 105- Takes note of the report of the 11th Meeting of the COMCEC Capital Market Regulators Forum held virtually on November 1st, 2022.

106- Welcomes the offer of the Capital Markets Board (CMB) of the Republic of Türkiye, as the Forum Secretariat, to host the 12th Meeting of the COMCEC CMR Forum, in 2023, calls upon the Member Countries to actively participate in this important event.

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

108- Recalling the relevant resolution of the 37th COMCEC Session, takes note with appreciation of the completion of the GEFAS Platform (Real Estate Based and Developing Financial Instruments Information System) designed to be an information hub for real estate themed capital market instruments and invites the interested Member Countries to encourage their relevant authorities to join this platform and provide the necessary information to be published in GEFAS."

iii) OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum 109- Welcomes the Communiqué of the 4th Meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum held on September 25th-26th, 2022.

110- Also welcomes the offer of the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, to host the 5th Meeting of the Forum in 2023, and requests all the Member Countries to actively participate in this Meeting.

111- Commends the training and capacity building programs, particularly on risk management in Islamic financial institutions, monetary operations, and integration of financial technologies (FINTECH) in Islamic finance, organized by the SESRIC for the benefit of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States and requests SESRIC to continue organizing such activities for the benefit of the relevant national institutions of the Member States within the framework of its Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB).

Improving Transport and Communications (Agenda Item: 8)

112- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the 18th and 19th Meetings of the Transport and Communications Working Group virtually on May 17th, 2022, and October 11th, 2022, respectively with the theme of “Economic and Social Impacts of Transport Infrastructures:

An Overview of OIC Member Countries”, welcomes its following policy recommendations:

- Developing/Improving a comprehensive strategy including the components of development, planning, and programming capacity for better economic and social impacts of transport infrastructure,
- Integrating the transport infrastructure projects with the higher national policies to serve the needs at best,
- Promoting the prioritization of transport infrastructure projects in line with high-quality economic and financial analyses,
- Strengthening the conditions for better risk assessments of transport infrastructure projects.
- Enhancing the quality of transport infrastructure projects’ statistics and ensuring transparency in information disclosure,
- Making better use of alternative financing and procurement mechanisms including Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and implementing ex-post analysis for enhancing the economic and social impact of transport infrastructure. (Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

113- Calls upon the Member Countries, which have registered to the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group, to actively participate in the 20th and 21st Meetings of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group to be held with the theme of “Environmental Impacts of Transport Infrastructure in the OIC Member Countries”, in 2023.

114- Commends the efforts of The Gambia and SESRIC for the following projects being implemented in 2022 within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Improving Human and Institutional Capacity for the Development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the Transport Sector of the OIC Countries” being implemented by The Gambia,
- The project entitled “Improving the Regulatory Framework for PPPs in Transport Sector in the OIC Member Countries” being implemented by SESRIC with 16 beneficiary Member Countries.

115- Also commends the efforts of The Gambia for the project titled “Alleviating the Negative Impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Air Transportation Sub-Sector of The Gambia and OIC Countries” being implemented in partnership with Türkiye in 2022 within the scope of 2nd Call for COMCEC COVID Response.

116- Also commends the efforts exerted by Algeria and the IsDB to complete “TransSaharan Road Project”, which will link land-locked countries and will be a pillar for integration and consolidation among the countries of the region.

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

118- Expresses its appreciation to SESRIC for organizing training courses in the transport and communication sector, particularly on transport statistics within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector (Agenda Item: 9)

119- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the 18th and the 19th Meetings of the Tourism Working Group on 12 May 2022 and 5 October 2022, respectively in a virtualonly format, with the theme of “Sustainable Human Resource Management in Tourism Sector”, welcomes its following policy recommendations:

- Improving/Developing strategic COVID-19 alert and new normal adjustment sustainability policies in human resources,
- Promoting in-service training, tourism schools, certificate programs, international exchange programs, and internship opportunities with a view to improving service and quality in the tourism industry,
- Ensuring the sustainability of Staff/Employee well-being through, among others, rewards, bonuses or raises in salary or possibility for employees to become shareholders and favourable working circumstances,
- Increasing synergy between businesses and partners. (Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

120- Calls upon the Member Countries which have registered to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group to actively participate in the 20th and 21th Meetings of the Tourism Working Group to be held with theme of “Promoting Entrepreneurship for Tourism Industry Competitiveness” in 2023.

121- Expresses its appreciation to Türkiye for hosting the 10th Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum held virtually on November 10th, 2022 with the theme of "The Prospects and Challenges for Gastronomy Tourism in OIC Countries".

122- Commends the efforts of Nigeria and Uganda for the following projects being implemented in 2022 within the framework of the 9th Call of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “A Two-Day Training on Human Resource Management in Tourism Sector” being implemented by Nigeria,

□ The project entitled “Risk Analysis and Crisis Planning and Management for Community Based Tourism” being implemented by Uganda.

123- Also commends the efforts of Sierra Leone for the project entitled “Preparation of COVID-19 Hygiene Protocol and Training of Employees within the Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality Sector” being implemented in 2022 within the framework of the 2nd Call for COMCEC COVID Response.

124- Invites the Member Countries to encourage their relevant institutions, tourism companies and tour operators etc. to further their efforts through, among others, organizing promotion campaigns and additional tours to Quds Al-Sharif for supporting Palestinians in Al-Quds and to demonstrate solidarity with them.

125- Also welcomes the successful implementation of five new interrelated tourism projects by the Ministry of National Economy of Palestine under the COMCEC Al-Quds Program with the following project titles:

- “The Artists’ Identity Path: Tracing Heritage in Al-Quds”,
- “Jerusalemites: Because We Are the Place and Time”,
- “Enjoy the Hidden Jewels of Al Quds”,
- “Old City Bakeries: Food Tourism and Heritage”,
- “Al-Quds: Secrets and Narratives to Unfold”.

126- Welcomes the Call for Project Proposals made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in October 2022 within the framework of COMCEC Al-Quds Program covering the following areas; tourism, entrepreneurship, creating job opportunities and empowerment of women and youth, e-trade and e-learning, microfinance and SME's involvement in Al-Quds Economy.

127- Welcomes the holding of the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) on 27-29 June 2022, in Baku/Azerbaijan and commends the selection of Şanlıurfa/Türkiye and Khiva/Uzbekistan as the OIC Cities of Tourism, for 2023 and 2024, respectively.

128- Express its appreciation that Uzbekistan and Qatar will host “the 12th and 13th ICTM” in 2024 and 2026, respectively and requests the Member Countries to actively participate in these events.

129- Takes note with appreciation of the efforts of the SESRIC for regularly preparing reports and organizing training courses, workshops and webinars on the tourism sector, particularly on Halal tourism industry, hospitality services, health tourism, managing and marketing protected areas, tourism statistics, culture statistics, and sustainable tourism indicators within the framework of its Tourism Capacity Building Programme (TourismCaB) and Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme as well as the OIC-VET Programme.

Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security (Agenda Item: 10)

130- Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the 18th and 19th Meetings of the Agriculture Working Group on 26 May 2022, and 10 October 2022, respectively in a virtual-only

format, with the theme of “Transforming Food Systems after COVID-19: Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems in the OIC Member Countries”, welcomes its following policy recommendations;

- Developing a sound stakeholder coordinating and consulting mechanism to provide a common framework in which all actors can operate in an aligned and harmonized way,
- Making use of Public-Private Partnerships for effective AKIS governance and financing,
- Investing in new talent for agriculture through developing connections and networks between youth and AKIS institutions to prepare workforce of the future,
- Including seasonal agriculture workers into the AKIS for better harnessing their potential in terms of investment, job creation and agricultural productivity,
- Developing a sound system for effective monitoring and evaluation from the beginning to better understand the impact of AKIS,
- Strengthening the information and communications technology (ICT) Systems for AKIS to address the need for localized and customized information,
- Developing an AgriTech & FoodTech ecosystem for the creation and growth of new companies and supporting the existing ones,
- Developing a virtual network of OIC AKIS institutions to increase collaboration among OIC Member Countries.(Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

131- Calls upon the Member Countries which have registered to the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to actively participate in the 20th and 21st Meetings of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group to be held with the theme of “Mitigating and Complying with the Impact of Economic and Social Issues in Combating Food Insecurity for Sustainable Agricultural Production in OIC Member Countries” in 2023. 132- Commends the efforts of Benin, Türkiye, ICCIA and IOFS for the following projects being implemented in 2022 within the framework of the Ninth Call of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Promote Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture to Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition in West Africa” being implemented by Benin,
- The project entitled “Capacity Building on New Technologies to Reduce Post-Harvest Losses” being implemented by Türkiye,
- The project entitled “Creating Awareness on the Importance of Agriculture Commodity Exchange Markets” being implemented by ICCIA with 7 beneficiary Member Countries,
- The project entitled “Building the Capacity of OIC Member Countries in Food Security Governance” to be implemented by IOFS with 11 beneficiary Member Countries.

133- Also commends the efforts of Azerbaijan, Benin and Türkiye for the following projects being implemented in 2022 within the framework of the 2nd Call for COMCEC COVID Response:

- The project entitled “Reduction of Food Loss and Waste (FLOW) during COVID-19 Pandemic through Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Socially Responsible Practices” being implemented by Azerbaijan,
- The project entitled “Increase Rice Productivity to Ensure Food Security and Sovereignty in Benin” being implemented by Benin,
- The project entitled “Resilience in the Seed Sector with the Rising of Risks after Covid19” being implemented by Türkiye.

134- Welcomes the project proposal of Sudan titled “Achieving Food Security for Arab Countries through Sudan Project” aimed at enhancing food security in the Arab region.

135- Taking note of the IOFS's different important tools for Member States to increase OIC agri-food production and to build up intra-OIC food supply chains, encourages the Member States, the Islamic Development Bank Group and other relevant OIC Institutions to identify key areas of cooperation and provide necessary technical assistance and financial support to the IOFS in this regard.

136- Taking note of the ongoing programmes within the framework of the Livestock Ecosystem as developed by the IOFS, encourages the Member States to assist the Organization in providing necessary financial resources for the successful implementation of such programmes for the benefit of OIC Member States.

137- Taking note of the restructuring of the Islamic Food Processing Association (IFPA), an IOFS Subsidiary, encourages Member States to actively participate in providing valuable inputs to establish a mechanism for mutual cooperation with IFPA, and invites their national Chambers of Commerce or Food Unions to consider joining IFPA as honorary members towards facilitating leading private food sector companies to become its corporate members.

138- Takes note of the SESRIC's virtually held training courses in the agricultural sector, particularly on cotton, food security through efficient irrigation systems, SDG 2 (zero hunger), and SDG 13 (climate action) indicators, within the framework of its Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB) and Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

139- Takes note of the SESRIC's training courses organized on "Biotechnological Tools and Techniques for Cotton" on 17-28 January 2022, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and "Enhancing Food Security through Efficient Irrigation Systems" in agriculture and food security sector on 23-25 August 2022 in a virtual-only format.

140- Takes note with appreciation ICD's resource allocation of USD\$ 270 million for the period of 2023-2025 to address the food security challenges faced by its member countries as part of the IsDB Group Food Security Response Program.

Alleviating Poverty (Agenda Item: 11)

141- Taking note with appreciation the convening of the 18th and 19th Meetings of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group held virtually on 10 May 2022, and 6-7 October 2022, respectively with the theme of "Effective Social Assistance Provision and Socioeconomic Empowerment in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic", and welcomes its policy recommendations categorized according to the levels of interoperability and integrity of social assistance systems in the OIC Member Countries. (Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

142- Calls upon the Member Countries which have registered to the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group to actively participate in the 20th and 21st Meetings of the Working Group to be held with the theme of "Effective Vocational Education and Training Strategies to Reduce Youth Unemployment in the OIC Member Countries" in 2023.

143- Commends the efforts of Türkiye and SESRIC for the following projects being implemented in 2022 within the framework of the 9th Call of the COMCEC Project Funding:

- The project entitled “Impacts of Digitalization in Social Assistance Program for Forced Migration” being implemented by Türkiye,
- The project entitled “Fostering Information Technology (IT) Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Public Employment Services (PES) in the OIC Member Countries” being implemented by SESRIC with 15 beneficiary Member Countries.

144- Appreciates SESRIC for regularly preparing research reports on women, youth, elderly and people with special needs and the labour market as well as organizing training courses, workshops, and webinars related to alleviating poverty, particularly on poverty reduction policies and strategies, poverty and living conditions statistics within the framework of its Poverty Alleviation Capacity Building Programme (PA-CaB) and the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

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

145- Reiterates its request to the Member Countries, which have pledged to the ISFD to fulfil their commitments and make fresh contributions to finance more poverty alleviation projects in Member Countries.

146- Welcoming the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) for mobilization of resources from different financing institutions for more effective implementation of the SPDA, requests the ISFD to enhance its endeavours for resource mobilization and advocacy from different resources including governmental, non-governmental resources, and the private sector in the Member Countries and to report the progress to the 39th COMCEC Session.

147- Takes note of the efforts of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development for resource mobilization including from governmental, non-governmental resources, and the private sector in the Member States through its new tools of Ihsan Waqf Investment Funds and Country Funds.

148- Reiterates its request to the ISFD to prepare and issue a publication containing the gist of activities and best project implementations throughout the 15 years of its existence.

ii) OIC-VET Program 149- Taking note with appreciation the progress report of SESRIC on the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025 and requests SESRIC to continue submitting progress reports on the implementation status of the Road Map to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

150- Requests SESRIC to conduct more capacity building training activities in the field of TVET focusing on the cooperation areas of the OIC-TVET Strategic Road Map 2020-2025, namely, “legislative framework, governance and promotion”, “TVET teacher education”, “occupational standards, qualification and quality assurance system” and “certification and modular training programs”.

151- Calls upon the Member Countries to participate in and support the various capacity development activities of SESRIC organized under the OIC-VET Programme.

iii) Implementation of the SDGs 152- Takes note with appreciation of the report presented by SESRIC titled “Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries 2022”.

153- Expresses its appreciation to SESRIC for the statistical training activities and webinars conducted with a focus on prioritized SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member Countries within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

154- Requests SESRIC to continue preparing annual reports on the progress towards achievement of the prioritized SDGs in the OIC Member Countries, submit them to the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions and continue carrying out statistical training activities with a focus on prioritized SDGs for the benefit of National Statistical Offices of the Member Countries within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

155- Takes note of the list of SDGs-related activities of the relevant OIC Institutions compiled by the COMCEC Coordination Office towards the implementation of the SDGs in the Member Countries and calls upon the Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions to actively participate in these activities.

156- Requests the COMCEC Coordination Office to compile the relevant OIC Institutions’ activities aligned with the prioritized SDG areas and submit the list to the 39th Session of the COMCEC.

Cooperation on Digital Transformation (Agenda Item 12)

157- Recalling the relevant resolution of the 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session on the COMCEC High Level Digital Cooperation Initiative/Programme, takes note with appreciation of convening of 1st and 2nd Technical Meetings on September 28th, 2022 and November 1st, 2022, respectively on the High-Level Initiative/Programme and welcomes the conduct of the “Concept Report on the Current State of Member Countries Regarding Digitalization” prepared by the Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Presidency of Türkiye and COMCEC Coordination Office.

158- Takes note with appreciation the Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on “COMCEC High Level Digital Cooperation Initiative/Programme” hosted by Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of Türkiye on November 27, 2022 on the sidelines of 38th COMCEC Session in particular the commitment of the member countries to continue their cooperation in this field under the “COMCEC High Level Digital Transformation Forum”.

159- Also takes note with appreciation the proposal of the Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, as the Secretariat of the COMCEC High Level Digital Transformation Forum, to host the first High-Level Forum Meeting in 2023 and requests all the interested Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to actively participate in the activities of the Forum.

Exchange of Views on “Effective Social Assistance Provision and Socioeconomic Empowerment in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic” (Agenda Item: 13)

160- Welcomes the policy recommendations of the 19th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group, which served as the preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session, on “Effective Social Assistance Provision and Socioeconomic Empowerment in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic” held virtually on 6-7 October 2022. (Ref: Document Code OIC/COMCEC/.....)

Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session

161- Decides on “Improving the e-Commerce Capacities of the OIC Member Countries” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 39th Session of the COMCEC and requests the COMCEC Trade Working Group in its 21st Meeting, in cooperation with the relevant OIC Institutions, to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 39th COMCEC Session.

Date of the 39th Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item: 14)

162- Decides that the 39th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 23-24 May 2023, and the 39th Session of the COMCEC will be held on 2-5 December 2023, in Türkiye.

Any Other Business (Agenda Item: 15)

163- Takes note of the proposal by Palestine recommending Member States of the OIC to assist and strengthen the resilience of Al-Quds and mobilize the necessary funding by adding the smallest unit of national currency for member states to the monthly bill for fixed and mobile phone service subscribers and explore ways to establish a fund to be operated by the Islamic Development Bank under the same mechanism as Al-Aqsa Fund and Jerusalem Fund, subject to approval by the IsDB.

164- Recalling the relevant resolution of the 37th Session of the COMCEC and the recommendation of the 38th Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC, takes note with appreciation the work done towards identifying a methodology and criteria for the formulation of draft resolutions in a more concise format with actionable points by the COMCEC Coordination Office in cooperation with the relevant OIC institutions welcomes the following criteria for the formulation of the COMCEC Ministerial Resolutions and requests the CCO to give due regard to these criteria in the preparation of draft resolutions for the upcoming COMCEC Sessions and Follow up Committee Meetings:

- An initiative/ Strategy/Programme/Project/, which requires a decision and was a subject to a previous COMCEC Resolution as well as and on which technical studies have already been completed.
- Setting targets/vision in the areas of cooperation and giving assignments to the Member Countries/OIC Institutions for this purpose.
- Launching/Adopting/Endorsing/Welcoming medium and long-term programs/projects initiated by the COMCEC or on the agenda of the COMCEC.
- Concrete programs/projects developed by the Member Countries towards implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and Policy Recommendations and OIC 2025 Programme of Action.

- Comprehensive, multilateral and large scale Programs/Projects/Initiatives of the OIC Institutions, which are designed for the benefit of the member countries and aligned with the COMCEC Strategy and Policy Recommendations as well as OIC 2025.
- Necessity of the submission of the resolution proposals by the Member Countries

Renewal of the Bureau Members

165- Elects the State of Qatar, Brunei Darussalam and Senegal 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 39th 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;

Country	Status
Republic of Türkiye:	Chairman (Permanent)
State of Palestine:	Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:	Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
State of Qatar:	Vice-Chairman (Representing the Arab Region)
Brunei Darussalam:	Vice-Chairman (Representing the Asian Region)
Senegal:	Vice-Chairman (Representing the African Region)
State of Kuwait:	Member of the Previous Bureau
Republic of Indonesia:	Member of the Previous Bureau
Federal Republic of Nigeria:	Member of the Previous Bureau
Islamic Republic of Pakistan:	Rapporteur
