



OIC/36-ICECS /2013/S&T/SG-REP

**REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY GENERAL
ON
HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT SECTORS
SUBMITTED TO THE
36TH SESSION OF THE
ISLAMIC COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC, CULTURAL
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

**JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
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Development of science, technology and innovation and the advancement of knowledge and higher education in the OIC Member States are imperative for their socio-economic development and welfare of the people. The OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit, Makkah - 2005) and the Vision 1441 H for Science and Technology (Tenth Islamic Summit, Putrajaya - 2003) attach high importance to the promotion of science, technology and innovation, advancement in higher education, addressing pandemics and diseases and improvements in the health sector, and effective action to deal with the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation.

2. Accordingly, Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment constitute crucial domains which are covered by the activities of the OIC and its specialized and affiliated institutions.

3. The Secretary General's current report contains a review of activities undertaken in the domains of Science, Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health and Environment subsequent to the 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti from 15 to 17 November 2012 and the 12th Islamic Summit Conference held in Cairo, Egypt, from 6-7 February 2013.

1. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Atlas of Islamic-World Innovation

4. Launched in 2008, the Atlas of Islamic World Innovation project is an initiative to map key trends and trajectories in science and technology-based innovation in the OIC Member States. The Atlas country reports are intended to look in detail at a geographically and economically diverse sample of selected OIC countries, and offer an independent assessment of how their innovation capabilities are changing, and the opportunities and barriers to their further progress.

5. The project is being managed by the SESRIC and the UK's Royal Society in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat and in partnership with COMSTECH, IDB, ISESCO, British Council, renowned science magazine Nature, Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Qatar Foundation and the Center for Development of Industrial Technology of Spain.

The 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Djibouti from 15 to 17 November 2013, took note of the progress in the implementation of the Atlas project, and called for the early completion of various country reports at different stages of preparation under the Atlas project. Since the 39th CFM, Atlas country report on Egypt has been completed. In an event held in Cairo on 5 February 2013, on the occasion of the 12th Islamic Summit Conference, the Secretary General launched the country reports on Egypt and Malaysia prepared under the Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation project.

6. Country case studies on Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Jordan and Senegal and are in various stages of preparation and are expected to be completed and launched during 2013.

7. In addition to the various country reports, the Atlas project envisages a final report which will include a desk-based analysis of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) indicators across the 57 OIC countries, the lessons OIC countries can learn from successful national innovation systems and discussion of common strengths, challenges and recommendations.

8. In view of the constraints of time and resources the Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation project could only cover a limited number of OIC Member States. OIC institutions like COMSTECH and SESRIC can assist other Member States in the conduct of similar mapping and foresight exercises.

Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology

9. The 4th Extraordinary session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah on 14-15 August 2012 reiterated its resolve to promote scientific and technological development and innovation, in particular, self-sufficiency in fields such as the peaceful uses of technology under the aegis of the IAEA.

10. In collaboration with the IDB and IAEA, the OIC General Secretariat is pursuing projects for the strengthening and establishment of cancer radiotherapy facilities in the OIC member States from Africa, where cancer has become one of the major causes of death. Likewise, projects on isotope hydrology and mosquito sterilization are being pursued in earnest in collaboration with the IDB and IAEA.

11. The 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers welcomed the interest of Member States to participate and contribute to the OIC-IDB-IAEA joint projects for the strengthening of cancer radiotherapy facilities in the OIC Member States in Africa.

12. In order to further the implementation of the projects for cancer radiotherapy facilities, the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) jointly organized a two-day High Level Seminar on OIC-IDB-IAEA Cooperation in Support of African Countries' Efforts to tackle Cancer on 2-3 September 2012 at the IDB Headquarters in Jeddah. The meeting was attended by representatives from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. Potential donors and partners such as the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan expressed their readiness to assist African Members States in their cancer control efforts. Malaysia communicated its willingness to participate in the project.

13. The Meeting defined for each African country what could be promoted further through IDB-IAEA-OIC synergistic support to establish/strengthen cancer control programmes and radiotherapy facilities. Elements of regional cooperation, particularly for education and training of the required human resources for radiation oncologists, medical physicists, radiographers, nurses etc. were also addressed.

14. The Meeting adopted a set of recommendations urging, inter alia, to ensure that cancer control is identified as a priority in the relevant strategic documents (Country Programme Framework for IAEA, Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and Member Country Partnership Strategy (MCPS) for IDB); to develop a National Cancer Control Programme and the relevant policies/strategy with a functional NCCP Committee; for those Member States who have not yet done so, to ensure the Ministry of Health officially requests the IAEA for facilitation of an IMPACT mission; to establish/strengthen national radiation safety infrastructure for the use of Radiation medicine.

15. The Ministry of Health (including its Cancer Centre/Institute) in coordination with the National Liaison Office (NLO) for IAEA and the Ministry of Finance/IDB's Governor of the participating countries is expected to approach the IDB for the development of a bankable project document.

S&T Centers of Excellence in the Islamic World

16. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Vision 1441H, the IDB facilitates cooperation between various centers of excellence across member countries by encouraging the formulation of joint projects between the centers and funding research through grants.

17. The scheme is designed as a series of trilateral cooperation operations involving a relatively advanced centre in a certain field with one or more less advanced centers in the same specialty field and IDB in collaboration with the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) acting as a facilitator.

18. The content of such cooperation covers exchange of scientists, on-job-training, sharing of existing facilities and information, and provision of expertise with a view to uplift the capacity and standards of the weaker centers while making enhanced utilization of the lead institution. The identification of Centers of Excellence is done by COMSTECH through a Panel of peer-reviewers cleared by the IDB.

19. Under the program IDB has paired International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), UAE, with the National Institute for Agricultural Research in Niger (INRAN), the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research Institute in Sudan with HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry in Pakistan.

20. The above two programs received a total funding of US\$280,000/- as IDB also financed a total of Thirty-four operations including recruitment of two experts, eleven on-job trainings and familiarization visits and seventeen workshops/seminars and conferences for a total of US\$1,371,000/-. Twenty countries including Algeria, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey and UAE have benefited from this program

Task Force for Vision 1441H for Science and Technology and the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action

21. The 38th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers approved the expansion in the membership of the Task Force of the OIC Vision 1441 H to include three Member States each from the three OIC regions. It also approved the mandate of Task Force to monitor of implementation of the Vision 1441 H alongwith the Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) and agreed to transfer the Secretariat of the Task Force to COMSTECH.

22. The 29th Meeting of the COMSTECH Executive Committee was held at Baku on 25-26 November 2011. Pursuant to the decision of the 38th CFM (Res.1/38-S&T), the Executive Committee took the first step to expand the membership of the Task Force on Vision 1441 H and the TYPOA and invited its own membership to join the Task Force. The 39th CFM welcomed the interest of the Member States in joining the reconstituted Task Force for Vision 1441H and the Ten Year Programme of Action.

23. The membership of the reconstituted Task Force includes Cameroon and Gambia from Africa region, Djibouti, Jordan and Saudi Arabia from Arab region, Iran, Malaysia and Pakistan from the Asia region. The Task Force membership will be completed upon the inclusion of one more Member State from the Africa region. In addition the representative of the OIC Summit Chairman (presently Egypt) is also a Task Force member. OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank, ISESCO, Islamic World Academy of Sciences, ICC&I and COMSTECH are also members of the Task Force.

24. COMSTECH is expected to convene a meeting of the re-constituted Task Force soon. The re-constituted Task Force is expected to strengthen implementation and provide a platform for coordinated strategy and oversight mechanism for the realization of the objectives and targets of the Ten Year Programme of Action and the Vision 1441H.

Summit on Science and Technology

25. The 4th Extraordinary session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah on 14-15 August 2012, called for the adoption of clearly defined measures to promote scientific and technological development and innovation and higher education. For this purpose the 12th Islamic Summit Conference, held in Cairo on 6-7 February 2013, mandated the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) Secretariat to study and take necessary measures to propose an Islamic Summit on Science and Technology and its impact on the Islamic Ummah. Efforts are underway to organize the S&T Summit under the aegis of COMSTECH during 2013.

Activities of COMSTECH in the domain of Science, Technology and Innovation

26. The 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, in its resolution on the activities of COMSTEC, commended the activities of COMSTECH in the areas related to its mandate. In this regard, with reference to the recommendations of the Vision 1441H and the TYPOA, the 39th CFM called upon COMSTECH to further strengthen its activities in the domain of science and

technology. Some of the ongoing activities and programmes of COMSTECH in these areas are summarized below.

Thematic Workshop in Frontier Technologies

27. COMSTECH has launched a robust program for training researchers of the OIC member states in the fields of synthetic biology, biotechnology, molecular biology, nanotechnology, mathematical sciences, combinatorial chemistry, biosafety and intellectual property rights.

Awards and Research Grants

28. Special awards and prizes have been instituted for outstanding scientific and technological achievements by Muslim scientists and institutions in the OIC Member States.

29. COMSTECH Awards are given in four disciplines namely Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics to honor distinguished individuals whose scientific and technological innovations in a specific field of science have led to important scientific discoveries. The Award carries a cash prize and a shield of honor for the recipient.

30. In addition, four COMSTECH Awards for Excellence in Science and Technology, carrying cash prize have been instituted: (i) COMSTECH Young Scientist Award, (ii) COMSTECH Best Scientific Book Award, (iii) COMSTECH Best Research Paper Award and (iv) COMSTECH Patent Award.

31. COMSTECH and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) are jointly offering grants to scientists up to the age of 40 and working in OIC countries. Grants are available in selected fields of science and technology. In collaboration with International Foundation for Science (IFS), COMSTECH has so far supported two hundred research projects from twenty-eight OIC member states.

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Research Center

32. COMSTECH Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Research and Training Centre was established in 2006 as a think-tank specializing in providing high-quality advisory services on STI to member states of OIC, to build capacity in STI by offering training for public policy makers, academic researchers and entrepreneurs and managers hailing from the business community in the OIC member states for the socio-economic development of this region.

33. Training Courses/Programs Conducted by this Center include Science, Technology and Innovation, Technology Transfer Policy and Industry Level Perspectives, Technology Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Training Course on Foresight.

Inter-Islamic Networks

34. The science and technology plan of action prepared by COMSTECH proposed the progressive establishment of high technology institutions in the OIC region in selected areas of science and technology. This led to the concept of networking of resources and establishment of

Centres of Excellence in key disciplines to enable the OIC member states to develop a respectable level of research. The 13 established networks include Networks on Space Science and Technology, Water Resources Development and Management, Tropical Medicine, Information Technology, Nanotechnology, Environment and Renewable Energy Resources etc.

Activities of the Statistical, Economic, Social-research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in the domain of Science, Technology and Innovation

35. The SESRIC BASEIND (Basic Social and Economic Indicators) Database provides data on 266 socio-economic variables under 18 categories, including research and scientific development, education, health and environment, for the 57 OIC member countries dating back to 1970. Currently, BASEIND provides data for 33 indicators on education and science and technology, 21 indicators on health and 5 indicators on environment. The content of BASEIND is regularly updated and enriched based on information collected from the national and international statistical sources. SESRIC is in a process of identifying the most relevant basic indicators related especially with environment and will incorporate these indicators in the BASEIND Database in near future.

36. SESRIC has also prepared several reports and background studies based on the latest available data to analyse the performance of member countries in the domain of research and scientific development, education, health and environment.

37. SESRIC prepared an outlook report on “Current Stance of Science and Technology in OIC Countries” in November 2012. Based on the latest available data on research and scientific development in the OIC region, this report presents an overview of the current developments in the OIC member countries in the field of research & development (R&D) and science & technology (S&T). In the light of the findings of comparative analysis, some broad recommendations for OIC member countries are also provided at the end of the report.

38. In its capacity as the Co-Project Manager (together with Royal Society) of the OIC project of “Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation”, SESRIC continued its efforts within the Joint Management Team and the Steering Group of the project to ensure the successful implementation of the project. SESRIC has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Agency for Technological Development JSC of Kazakhstan (NATD) for cooperation and coordination on their respective activities in order to implement the recommendations outlined in the Kazakhstan Country Case Study prepared under the Atlas project. This report is expected to be launched in the last week of May 2013.

Activities of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in the domain of Science, Technology and Innovation

39. The Islamic Development Bank announced a new policy in 1426H (2005), under which IDB encourages at least 10 percent of a member country’s annual programme in the science and technology sector. The Bank supports scientific and technological development in member countries in three distinct areas:

- i) Assistance to build physical facilities and infrastructures;
- ii) Forge collaboration and exchange of knowledge through activities such as short-term exchange of experts, on-the-job training, and conferences; and
- iii) Financing research and development projects by designated centres of excellence.

40. There are a number of initiatives taken by IDB in partnership with COMSTECH and other institutions in member countries to support the development of science and technology resources. Five of the major initiatives are presented below:

- i) Annual Workshop Scheme: An annual state-of-the-art workshop scheme with an amount of \$200,000 per year for eight workshops, with \$25,000 allocated to each.
- ii) IDB Prizes for Science & Technology: As part of the Bank's efforts to promote excellence in scientific research and education, three IDB Prizes for Science & Technology were established in 1423H (2002).
- iii) Centres of Excellence Cooperation Scheme: The IDB facilitates cooperation between various centres of excellence across member countries by encouraging the formulation of joint projects between the centres and funding research on joint projects through grants.
- iv) S&T Expatriate Nationals Scheme: The S&T Expatriate Nationals Scheme has been built on the UNDP-TOKTEN reference model and is supported by the Bank with an allocation of \$0.2 million.
- v) Centers of Excellence Cooperation program, Inter Islamic Networks cooperation Program, IDB Scholarships Program, IDB Awards Program, IDB-COMSTECH Training Program, and IDB-COMSTECH S&T financial support program. Whereby leading S&T institutions of OIC are paired with weaker S&T institutions to enable them to achieve quick development.

41. The IDB Science and Technology Prizes consist of three (3) prizes awarded on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors. Each prize consists of a cash award of one hundred thousand (100,000) US dollars, a trophy and a certificate mentioning the name of the winner and its accomplishments. The Prizes are awarded only to institutions (not to individuals) in IDB member countries in 3 categories: (i) Outstanding scientific or technological contribution to the socio-economic development of a member country, (ii) Outstanding contribution to Engineering Sciences; Agriculture; Medicine; Biotechnology; Information Technology; Optoelectronics; Material Sciences; Pharmaceutical Sciences; Industrial Microelectronics; Alternative Energy Sources and Nanotechnology and (iii) Noted scientific research institutions in the IDB Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs). In 2012, the following institutions were awarded IDB Prizes in the three categories:

- Category 1: Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysia.
- Category 2: University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), Pakistan.
- Category 3: Institut Senagalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA), Senegal

Activities of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in the domain of Science, Technology and Innovation

42. ISESCO is implementing a number of strategies, programs and projects in the light of the recommendations of the various sessions of the Islamic Conference, the Strategy for Developing Science and Technology, the Strategy for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies, as well as recommendations emanating from various other regional and International Scientific forums, towards its main objective of building science, technology and innovation capacities of the Member States for sustainable socio-economic development.

43. ISESCO carries out a range of activities including organization of and participation in seminars, conferences, workshops and training sessions, development and review of syllabi, as well as publication of booklets, guides and training material for promotion of science and technology, research and development in diverse fields including nanotechnology, biotechnology, ICT, communication satellites etc.

44. ISESCO has been working to mobilize political support and high level commitment among major national stakeholders to collaborate towards innovation in technology and to turn science, technology and innovation into major drivers of sustainable development. It has been instrumental in the establishment of Parliamentary forums, establishment of networks Pan-Islamic Research and Education Network, and invigorating science and technology policies, at the government level.

45. ISESCO has taken measures to promote development, utilization, acquisition and commercialization of technologies. It also focuses on strengthening components of technological infrastructure through assisting in technology policies. Technologies of critical importance like nanotechnology, and bio-technology were also given due consideration.

46. The ISESCO Center for the Promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR) continues to promote research in science and technology and offers research grants, organizes various scientific events, offers research training, convenes expert panels in important scientific fields, and publishes its scientific research Journal entitled "ISESCO Journal of Science & Technology".

47. Benefiting from the World Summit on the Information Society and Contributing to the implementation of its Resolution, ISESCO focused on ways to bridge digital divide between the Muslim countries and the developed world. ISESCO activities include the drawing up of the Informatics Strategy for the Islamic World, organization of seminars, workshops and training courses in information and communication technologies and their applications in various fields, teaching informatics, preparation of study on media and communications' laws and legislation in Magreb regions' Member States, ICT in promotion of Islamic heritage and facing Islamophobia as well as equipping documentation centers, scientific and research centers, public libraries and cultural centers with information and communication technologies.

48. ISESCO has also provided scholarships for students in Africa for studies in communication sciences.

Science, Technology and Innovation Organization (STIO)

49. The Science, Technology and Innovation Organization (STIO) was approved by the 34th Islamic Council of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) in their meeting held in Islamabad on 15-17 May, 2007. STIO is a specialized organ of OIC established under Chapter XIII, Article 24 of the OIC Charter. So far 20 OIC member states have joined STIO since membership was opened in February 2010.

50. The STIO is responsible for implementing the STI related decisions of the OIC policy making forums. Its programmes include promotion of smart partnerships and pooling resources of the private and public sectors for research and development, maximum utilization of the scientific talent and technological potential of Member States, fostering technical competence and capabilities and launching specific bilateral or multilateral projects, involving industry, research and academic centers.

51. As part of the efforts of the OIC member states to achieve self-reliance in medicines and vaccines the STIO, in coordination with the General Secretariat, organized a meeting of selected vaccine manufacturers from the OIC Member States in Dubai, UAE, on 27-28 February 2013. This event brought together manufacturers and producers of vaccines from OIC member states to share their feedback on the status of medicines and vaccine production and discuss possible avenues for collaboration. Further details regarding the meeting are included in the section of this report on Health.

52. The STIO, in coordination with National Research Foundation of the UAE and the U.S. State Department, is planning to organize a workshop on “Women in Science” in 2013. The workshop will bring together women scientists from the OIC countries and the US to exchange experiences in their work and explore possibilities for joint research and collaborative work in mutually beneficial areas.

53. Two project proposals have been sent by STIO to the National Research Foundation of the UAE. The first one relates to “Studies on Reverting Insulin Resistance (IGT and IFG) by Employing Natural Products for the Prevention of the On-set of Metabolic Syndrome” and the second one is “Characterization of bioactive secondary metabolites produced by Rhizobacteria and screening of their potential as bio-control agents”. This project will be implemented in collaboration with the Chemistry Department of UAE University, Dubai.

54. The STIO is also planning to develop a training programme entitled ‘Science in Diplomacy’ to familiarize diplomats from the OIC Member States with the scientific aspects of international negotiations concerning issues such as climate change and environment, health related issues etc.

Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS)

55. The underlying objective of the programme of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences is to establish a framework for the development of science and technology in the Islamic World. The IAS programme, by facilitating interaction among scientists, and promoting the exchange of views and ideas on science and technology issues in particular, aims at facilitating overall process of socio-economic development in Islamic countries.

56. Since its inception in 1986, the IAS has been implementing programmes that address serious contemporary issues facing the Islamic World, with the aim of formulating remedial policies that can be adopted by OIC and developing countries in their quest to achieve their development objectives.

57. Operating on a year to year basis, the IAS has organised several international conferences, published a series of Conference Proceedings, Newsletters and some monographs, and has also established a quality Science Journal which is of an international standard.

58. Moreover, the IAS has established numerous contacts with national and international non-governmental organisations, as well as governments throughout the World. The Academy acts as a focal point for scientific community of the OIC and promotes networking between scientists of OIC countries.

59. IAS has been organizing S&T conferences since its foundation in 1987. The 19th Conference of the IAS was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 6-9 May 2013 under the title “Achieving Socio-Economic Development in the Islamic Word through Science, Technology and Innovation”.

60. The IAS website is a repository of video material on the Internet, including information on R&D input indicators.

61. IAS is assisting OIC Member States to help them establish national science academies. It is also considering arranging S&T awareness programmes for OIC parliamentarians in association with the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States.

2. HIGHER EDUCATION

62. The 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in its Resolution No.2/39-S&T on Higher Education Matters called upon Member States and relevant OIC institutions to further strengthen their programmes and activities in the domain of higher education. It urged all Member States to fully utilize the document on “Key Performance Indicators: A Guide for Assessment and Quality Enhancement for Universities in the Islamic World” in their activities related to performance in the field of higher education. It invited all Member States to actively encourage their public and private sector higher education and research institutions to actively collaborate with the OIC for the further strengthening and promotion of the Educational Exchange Programme. Including offers of scholarships through the OIC General Secretariat.

Key Performance Indicators

63. In pursuance of the decisions of the 5th Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2010, and Resolution 2/38-S&T on Higher Education adopted by the 38th CFM, the OIC General Secretariat, with the assistance of experts from member States and in coordination with ISESCO and the Ministry of Higher Education of Saudi Arabia, prepared and presented the document on “*Key performance Indicators : A Guide for Assessment, and Quality Enhancement for Universities in the Islamic World*” to the Extra-ordinary Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 4-5 October 2011.

64. The Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research unanimously adopted the document and agreed on a number of recommendations pertaining to the document. It was decided to organize seminars and workshops to generate awareness and understanding of the “Key performance Indicators : A Guide for Assessment, and Quality Enhancement for Universities in the Islamic World” for the universities in the Islamic World to compete with the World Class Universities;

65. Subsequent to the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, a consultant was engaged to prepare a ‘Guide for Assessment and Quality Enhancement for Universities in the Islamic World’ in order to facilitate the implementation of the Key Performance Indicators documents by the universities in the OIC Member States. The ‘Guide for Assessment and Quality Enhancement for Universities in the Islamic World’ was reviewed by High level and Quality and Accreditation Experts and finalized in their meeting held in Jeddah on 6-7 October 2013.

66. The 6th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific (Khartoum, 20-21 November 2012) adopted the Guide for Assessment and Quality Enhancement for Universities in the Islamic World and urged the Member States to benefit from it.

6th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research – Khartoum, 20-21 November 2012.

67. The 6th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research was held on 20-21 November 2012 at Khartoum. The Conference adopted Khartoum Declaration, reiterating the call for provision of greater resources for R&D, science, technology and innovation to promote political empowerment of the OIC Member States.

68. The Conference adopted the Guide for Assessment and Quality Enhancement for Universities in the Islamic World and urged the Member States to benefit from it. The Conferences called for the continuation of efforts to follow up implementation of the Key Performance Indicators document to ensure quality in higher education. In this regard it approved the establishment of a High Level Quality and Accreditation Committee of the OIC Member States and proposed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Chairmen the Committee.

69. The Conference underscored the need for redoubling of efforts for the promotion of nanotechnology in the Member States and asked them to take necessary measures to promote nanotechnology education and create new laboratories and nanotechnology research centers with world class facilities for conducting research focusing on new and emerging areas of critical importance in improving economies.

70. The Inter Islamic Network on Nanotechnology based in Karaj, Islamic Republic of Iran organized a Workshop on Nanotechnology on 13 – 15 May 2013. The Workshop inter alia discussed cooperation among Member States, transfer and exchange of information on nanotechnology.

OIC Educational Exchange Programme: Solidarity Through Academia in the Muslim World

71. With a view to taking practical steps towards strengthening the bonds of Islamic solidarity and achieving its renaissance, the OIC General Secretariat has put in place a framework for greater cooperation and linkages in academia i.e. learning, teaching and research.

72. The ‘OIC Educational Exchange Programme: Solidarity through Academia in the Muslim World’ aims at promoting solidarity through academia and cooperation among Member states in the crucial field of higher education. The Programme is receiving increasing attention at the international level and a large number of students are pursuing studies at the graduate, masters, doctoral and post-doctoral levels in various institutions of higher learning in the OIC Member States. Under the Programme, scholarships have been announced in a wide range of fields including physical sciences, social sciences, engineering, humanities, ICT etc. by several public and private sector universities in the OIC Member States. A dedicated webpage for the Programme facilitates timely provision of information about scholarship offers to the widest possible audience. The Programme also provides for exchange of students, meeting faculty deficit in the universities, distance learning, joint research projects, training facilities, vocational and specialized courses to cater to the specific requirements of the interested Member States.

73. So far, against a total number of 225 scholarships offered at the graduate, post-graduate and Ph.D level under the OIC Educational Exchange Programme, a total number of 163 candidates have been selected for studies in various universities in the OIC member States.

74. As a part of Faculty Exchange, the Middle East Technical University of Northern Cyprus (METU NCC) has invited academics holding professorial titles as visiting faculty in the fields of Accounting and Finance, Computer Engineering, Computer Education, Organic Chemistry and Thermo Dynamics. Positions are available for 2013-2014 academic year for one/two regular semesters.

75. Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Dhaka – Bangladesh has invited applications for the posts of Professors, Associated Professors and Assistant Professors for the Civil and Environmental Engineering Departments.

Activities of the Statistical, Economic, Social-research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

76. In its efforts for developing a special database on the main indicators on education and education-related fields, the Statistical, Economic, Social-research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) has already identified and collected the relevant data on the OIC member countries on a set of 33 indicators now available at the Centre's main database "BASEIND".

77. SESRIC prepared a report on "Education and Scientific Development in OIC Countries 2012-2013" as a back ground document for the 6th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Khartoum, Sudan on 20-21 November 2012. This report analyses and examines the trends in the major indicators in the field of educational and scientific developments in the OIC member countries. It investigates these trends in a comparative manner with their counterparts in the group of developed countries, non-OIC developing countries as well as the world as a whole. In so doing, the report highlights a number of constraints and challenges confronting the member countries in their efforts to foster their educational and scientific development.

Activities of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

78. Annually, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) offers scholarships focused on S & T in three categories namely (i) Scholarship Programme for Muslim communities in Non-member Countries, (ii) M.Sc. Scholarship Programme in Science and Technology IDB Least Developed Member Countries' and (iii) Merit Scholarship Programme for High Technology.

79. Under its "Excellent Leadership Award", the IDB invites the high achieving graduates of the three scholarship programmes to attend a 3 day Management Development Program at the IDB headquarters and to visit Makkah and Madina.

80. The Bank funds and implements its scholarship programmes as part of its overall effort in the development of human resources of its member countries and those of the Muslim communities in non-member countries.

IDB support for OIC universities

81. The IDB has significantly contributed in the efforts of the OIC universities in terms of infrastructure development. IDB has been implementing projects to enhance the academic performance of three OIC-affiliated universities in Bangladesh, Niger and Uganda by drawing upon the knowledge and expertise of the International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM). The 'Guide for Assessment and Quality Enhancement for Universities in the Islamic World' was the basis of the project.

Activities of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in the domain of Higher Education.

82. ISESCO has been carrying out a range of activities for the development of higher education in Member States. These include organization of and participation in conferences, seminars, workshops, training sessions for improvement in various aspects of higher education, quality of higher education, development of science and technology, adaptation of education and training to job market.

83. ISESCO has also been involved in the preparation of training material, booklets, guidelines and strategies for improvement in the above-mentioned fields.

84. ISESCO has launched several programmes for assisting the Member States in transformation to knowledge-based economies, enhancing the quality of higher education and promotion of knowledge and skills integrating information and communication technologies in academies, and various other sectors of economies. Programmes on scientific indicators, indexing and citations, accreditations, key performance indicators, studies and state of the art reports were launched to examine and analyze status of scientific and technological progress. Women role in science and technology was encouraged by offering special opportunities and creation of Women Science Chairs. Ethical issues of new scientific and technological development are also accorded due consideration in ISESCO activities.

85. ISESCO has been contributing towards the establishment of chairs in various universities, provision of teachers and evaluation of academic performance of universities.

Activities of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Dhaka:

86. The 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Djibouti, 15-17 November 2012) in its Resolution No.7/39-S&T urged the IUT to devote more attention to research in fields relevant to the needs of the Member States and disseminate research findings to the potential beneficiaries, invited the university to design short courses, especially in the fields of cutting edge and emerging technologies for the professional personnel suiting the requirements of the Member States, called upon the university to pursue meaningful cooperation under MOUs signed

between the IUT and other reputed institutions and took note of the steps taken by the university for launching an endowment fund to diversify the sources of income.

87. The IUT has five academic departments and degree programs leading up to doctorate level. Faculty members and students of IUT are being encouraged to undertake research projects. Papers authored by faculty members are being regularly presented in national and international seminars and conferences. A refereed technical journal named “Journal of Engineering and Technology” containing research papers authored by the staff of the IUT, various organizations, Universities of the host country and abroad is being published regularly. In order to encourage faculty members for publication of research papers in the peer-reviewed scientific journals a new policy has been adopted under which the university has started bearing full or partial fee required for publication. A new remuneration policy has been formulated for encouraging the authors and reviews of books.

88. Apart from the long-term regular academic programmes, the IUT has been conducting skill and knowledge updating short courses, seminars and workshops for in-service personnel in fields such as Software Testing and Quality Assurance, Competency Based Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Wireless Communications, Renewable Energy Technologies for Sustainable Environment and Geotechnical Design of Building Substructure.

89. The IUT is implementing a policy for appointment of visiting faculty under which a number of highly qualified and experienced teachers from North America and Western Europe serve the university from time to time for short stints for teaching, providing guidance in curriculum development and collaborating with faculty members to facilitate research.

90. The IUT is in the process of constructing a hostel for female students. Enrollment for female students is expected for academic year 2014-2015

Activities of the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU):

91. The 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Djibouti, 15-17 November 2012) in its Resolution No.7/39-S&T noted the contribution of the IUIU in meeting the educational needs of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Muslims in eastern and southern Africa. It requested the Member States, IDB and other institutions to donate funds for the construction of a Waqf estimated at US\$ 30 million, called upon Member States and institutions to assist the IUIU in establishing the Faculties of Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine and consider the secondment of academic staff to the IUIU in these subjects.

92. The University runs 88 different programmes offered in six (6) faculties. These faculties are; Science, Management Studies, Education, Islamic Studies and Arabic Language, Arts and Social Sciences, and Law. There is also a Centre for Postgraduate Studies. The University has four (04) Campuses including one for Female Students only, which started operation in 2008, with financial assistance from the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF).

93. With regard to the construction of a new Waqf, the University has already secured the land titles for the new land (7.5 acres) donated by the government of Uganda. The university plans to conduct a feasibility study regarding projects for the new land.

94. The IUIU plans to start the Faculty of Health Sciences in January 2014, starting with two degree programmes - i.e. Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery; and Bachelor of Pharmacy. The key challenge is lack of qualified academic staff to teach in the faculty of Health Sciences (FHS). The minimum academic requirement is a Masters degree in medicine or relevant subjects such as Biochemistry, Anatomy, Physiology. IUIU intends to approach Member States for secondment of academic staff for this purpose.

Activities of the Islamic University in Niger (IUN):

95. The 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Djibouti, 15-17 November 2012) in its Resolution No.7/39-S&T urged the OIC universities to devote more attention to research fields relevant to the needs of the Member States. It expressed gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Niger for donating a plot of land in Niamey City to IUN for the construction of a Waqf.

96. The Islamic University in Niger offers various academic degree programmes in four faculties (Sharia and Law, Arabic Language and Human Sciences, Science and Technology and Economics and Business Administration) and two institutes (Higher Institute of Education and Teacher Training and Iqra Institute for Vocational Training).

97. The University implements a strategic plan for modernization with a view to attaining the level of higher education institutions. Similarly, a plan is being implemented to establish five new faculties (Agriculture, Education, Economics and Business Administration, Science and Technology and Health Sciences). Two faculties out of the five planned – Economics and Business Administration were established during the 2009 – 2010 academic year.

98. It is hoped that the establishment of a Faculty of Agriculture would, in few years, allow for the fulfilment of the vegetables needs (potatoes, rice, etc.) of the university (University canteen) and the populations of neighbouring villages, while the income would naturally replenish the University's budget. The IUN, in Say, stretches over more than 900 hectares on the banks of the Niger River where different crops may be considered as fields for experiments and practical works for the students of the Faculty of Agriculture. In the long term, animal breeding (cattle and sheep) and even poultry can be envisaged.

99. The IDB is financing US\$15 million commercial center project through the Waqf Fund for IUN. Upon completion, this is expected to help the IUN in meeting its operating costs within three years.

Activities of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

100. The IIUM has been actively promoting the objectives of the OIC and implementing the relevant decisions of OIC meetings. The 38th CFM decided to accord the status of affiliated institution of the OIC to the IIUM.

101. In its Resolution No.7/39-S&T, the 39th CFM (Djibouti, 15-17 November 2012), encouraged the IIUM to continue its support to the IUT, IUIU and IUN, urged the Member States and all relevant OIC institutions to lend their support for the establishment of an IIUM endowment fund.

102. The International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) has been assisting in reviewing the performance of the IUT and invited the other three OIC-Affiliated universities to send their teaching staff for further studies at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) with financial support to be provided by the IIUM. Under the framework of its cooperation MoU with IIUM, the IUT has sought the services of a faculty member specialized in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from IIUM to facilitate the launching of a new course in the subject. Under the provision of the same MoU, a faculty member of the IUT has obtained his Ph.D. from IIUM. Two teaching staff of IUIU are following their post-graduate studies at the IIUM.

3. HEALTH

103. The 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) (Djibouti, 15 - 17 November, 2012) adopted Resolution No. 3/39-S&T on Health matters which, inter alia, reiterated the crucial role of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers in promoting the common OIC health agenda; called upon the Member States to implement the Resolutions and Declarations adopted by the First, Second and Third Islamic Conference of Health Ministers held in Kuala Lumpur in June 2007, Tehran in March 2009 and in Astana in October 2011 respectively.

104. The 39th ICFM further:

- a. Requested SESRIC in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB to expedite preparation of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2013-2022 and submit it to the Steering Committee on Health for its consideration and submission to the Fourth Islamic Conference of Health Ministers in Jakarta in 2013 for adoption;
- b. encouraged the concerned Member States to consider placement of qualified health specialists for the Health Implementation Unit in the OIC General Secretariat along with necessary funding;
- c. called upon the OIC General Secretariat to coordinate with the Member States, IDB and ICCI for the promotion of Self Reliance in Production of Medicines and Vaccines;
- d. welcomed the interest of the Member States to participate and contribute to the OIC-IDB-IAEA joint projects for the strengthening of cancer radiotherapy facilities in the OIC Member States in Africa;

- e. urged the Member States to actively participate in a meeting of technical experts on development and harmonization of standards on pharmaceuticals and vaccines to be hosted by Malaysia in the second half of 2012;
- f. urged the Member States to undertake necessary steps to fight communicable diseases including AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; requested the potential donors, including the OIC Member States, to contribute generously to the GPEI and Global Fund to support activities against polio, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;
- g. requested the OIC General Secretariat and IDB to continue their coordination with USAID for the implementation of activities under the joint projects on Mother and Child Health Care in Bangladesh and Mali.

Fourth Islamic Conference of Health Ministers

105. Subsequent to adoption of the Resolution No. 3/39-S&T on Health matters by the 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Djibouti, 15 - 17 November, 2012), the OIC General Secretariat and the Ministry of Health of Republic of Indonesia are engaged for the organization of the Fourth session of Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) scheduled to be held on 22 – 24 October 2013 in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia.

106. Dedicated webpages at the website of the OIC General Secretariat and the Ministry of Health of Indonesia have been created which contain information regarding the 4th ICHM.

107. The contribution of OIC to the post-2015 development agenda is one of the main items on the agenda of the 4th ICHM. Indonesia, co-chair of the UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post- 2015 development agenda is preparing a brief paper for deliberation by the Fourth ICHM.

OIC Steering Committee on Health (SCH)

108. The Sixth meeting of the OIC Steering Committee on Health (SCH) was hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Jakarta from 23 to 24 April, 2013.

109. The SCH reviewed the implementation of all resolutions and decisions of the First, Second and Third ICHM and meetings of SCH and discussed ways and means to strengthen national actions and international cooperation for effective follow up to the decisions of ICHM.

110. The meeting inter alia endorsed the draft OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2013 – 2022 for submission to the 4th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers; endorsed the preparation of a draft Implementation Plan for OIC-SHPA for consideration by 7th Meeting of SCH prior to 4th ICHM; approved the Terms of Reference of the Technical Committee on Development and Harmonization of Standards on Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines; welcomed the recommendations by the first meeting of medicine and vaccines manufacturers from OIC Member States to prepare short, medium and long term plan of action towards self reliance of vaccines productions; extended support for the expeditious establishment and operationalization of the Health Implementation Unit; discussed OIC contributions to

development of post-2015 MDG document; and discussed preparation for the 4th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers.

111. The SCH reiterated the call by the 3rd Islamic Conference of Health Ministers for more cooperation in the area of health training and education and agreed to encourage offers of scholarships in the field of health education under the 'OIC Educational Exchange Programme: Promoting Solidarity through Academia'.

112. The SCH urged Kazakhstan as current Chair of ICHM to consider initiation of coordination of OIC Health Ministers at the sidelines of the forthcoming WHA in Geneva to strengthen OIC cooperation on health related issues in international fora.

113. The SCH stressed the significance of the mother and child nutrition as one of the core health issue in the OIC Region and requested that this issue be duly covered during the forthcoming OIC meetings in the field of health.

OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2013-2022 (OIC SHPA)

114. The 39th ICFM requested SESRIC in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB to expedite preparation of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2013-2022 and submit it to the Steering Committee on Health for its consideration and submission to the Fourth Islamic Conference of Health Ministers in Jakarta in 2013 for adoption.

115. A brainstorming workshop, involving members of the SCH, was held at the SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara on 11-12 June 2012 to formulate a structure of the draft OIC-SHPA. On the basis of the proposed structure, a draft of the OIC-SHPA was prepared by SESRIC and circulated to all MS and international organizations for comments.

116. The Program of Action of the OIC-SHPA contains six Thematic Areas:

- Thematic area 1: Health System Strengthening;
- Thematic area 2: Disease prevention and control;
- Thematic area 3: Maternal, New-born and Child Health and Nutrition;
- Thematic area 4: Medicines, Vaccines and Medical Technologies;
- Thematic area 5: Emergency Health Response and Intervention;
- Thematic area 6: Information, Research Education and Advocacy.

117. An Expert Advisory Group Meeting was held on 17 – 18 February 2013 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara. The meeting finalized the draft OIC-SHPA document.

118. The draft OIC-SHPA 2013 – 2022 was endorsed by the Sixth meeting SCH, held in Jakarta from 23 to 24 April 2013 and the OIC General Secretariat was requested to submit the document for adoption by the Fourth ICHM.

Implementation Plan for OIC-SHPA

119. The Expert Advisory Group Meeting (EAGM) held on 18-19 February 2013 at the SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara agreed to develop an Implementation Plan for the OIC-SHPA 2013-2022. Six working groups corresponding to the six key thematic areas lead by a Member State were established. Online group discussion platforms for each of the working group were created to facilitate interaction between their members to develop the draft Implementation Plan.

120. The Implementation Plan for the OIC-SHPA will be finalized at a meeting involving all OIC Member States and members of SCH in Bandung on 18 – 19 June 2013. The Implementation Plan includes Key Performance Indicator (KPIs) to measure progress towards achievement of the stated objectives as well as specific timeframe for each of the activities proposed under each of the thematic areas.

121. The final draft Implementation Plan document will be tabled to the Fourth Islamic Conferences of Health Ministers for approval.

122. A Working Group to follow up the implementation of OIC SHPA 2013-2022 will be established. The countries currently leading the thematic areas for developing the Implementation Plan will be requested to continue their role as members of the Working Group.

Self-Reliance in vaccine and drugs

123. Two parallel tracks are being followed in the efforts to promote Self Reliance in Production of Medicine and Vaccines:

- a. *Development and Harmonization of Standards on Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines.*
- b. *Cooperation between medicine and vaccine manufacturers in the OIC Member States*

Development and Harmonization of Standards on Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines.

124. A technical meeting on the subject was hosted by Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on 1-2 October 2012. The meeting reviewed the regulatory control of pharmaceuticals and vaccines in the OIC Member States, discussed challenges to produce pharmaceuticals and vaccines in the OIC region; and deliberated on the structure of the Technical Committee for the Development and Harmonization of Standards on Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines (OIC-DHSPV).

125. The meeting identified two spheres areas of collaboration: the first sphere is national regulatory bodies and department of standards; and the second sphere is cooperation with private sector involved in production of vaccine and drug in the OIC Member States.

126. The draft Terms of Reference of Technical Committee on Development and Harmonization on Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines were finalized through circulation to all Member States.

127. The Terms of Reference of the Technical Committee on Development and Harmonization of Standards of Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines and the Two-Year Action plan of the Technical Committee were approved by the 6th Meeting SCH (Jakarta, 23 to 24 April, 2013).

128. Malaysia has offered to host Second meeting of the Technical Committee in November 2013.

Cooperation between medicine and vaccine manufacturers in the OIC Member States

129. The first meeting of medicine and vaccines manufacturers from OIC countries was organized by the OIC General Secretariat in cooperation with the Science, Technology and Innovation Organization (STIO) and hosted by the Government of UAE in Dubai on 27 – 28 February 2013.

130. The meeting reviewed status of medicine and vaccines production in the OIC countries, discussed major challenges to self-reliance, identified possible avenues for collaboration and the OIC role in facilitating cooperation and joint action.

131. The participants agreed to work together for promoting self-reliance and emphasized that the objective could be achieved through joint action in a phased manner.

132. The meeting recommended several short, medium and long term measures towards self reliance of vaccines production that includes.

- strengthening industry-academia linkages,
- harmonization of standards,
- creation of pooled procurement facility for vaccines and related supplies through public-private partnership,
- establishment of a strategic stock of medicines and vaccines for emergency, and
- securing WHO pre-qualified status.

133. The Pasteur Institute, Razi Vaccine & Serum Research Institute of Islamic Republic of Iran and MACTER Int'l Pvt of Republic of Pakistan offered to fund R&D activities for human and veterinary vaccines for OIC countries; training courses and workshops on Quality Management System (QMS); Validation, Clinical Trials and CGMP.

134. In line with request of the meeting, the OIC General Secretariat has contacted the WHO for a comprehensive information on WHO prequalification programme, its procedure, criteria and mechanism.

135. The meeting agreed to prepare a document containing short, medium and long term actions towards self reliance. SESRIC was requested to conduct technical assessment studies and prepare a report thereon.

136. The second meeting of medicine and vaccine manufacturers is being hosted by Bio Farma of Indonesia in Bandung on 16 June 2013 to consider the short term (downstream process), medium term (joint development of APIs) and long term (research and development) plans. The document will be presented to the 4th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers for consideration.

OIC-IDB-IAEA partnership for the establishment and strengthening of cancer radiotherapy infrastructure in Member States in Africa

137. The OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) jointly organized a two-day High Level Seminar on OIC-IDB-IAEA Cooperation in Support of African Countries' Efforts to tackle Cancer on 2-3 September 2012 at the IDB Headquarters in Jeddah. The meeting was attended by representatives from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. Potential donors and partners such as the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan expressed their readiness to assist African Members States in their cancer control efforts. Malaysia communicated its willingness to participate in the project.

138. The objective of the Seminar was to provide a forum for the countries to present their national plans and programmes and for the IDB, IAEA, and OIC to consider requests for funding and technical support for the project.

139. The Meeting defined for each African country what could be promoted further through IDB-IAEA-OIC synergistic support to establish/strengthen cancer control programmes and radiotherapy facilities. Elements of regional cooperation, particularly for education and training of the required human resources for radiation oncologists, medical physicists, radiographers, nurses etc. were also addressed.

140. The Meeting adopted a set of recommendations urging, inter alia, to ensure that cancer control is identified as a priority in the relevant strategic documents (Country Programme Framework for IAEA, Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and Member Country Partnership Strategy (MCPS) for IDB); to develop a National Cancer Control Programme and the relevant policies/strategy with a functional NCCP Committee; for those Member States who have not yet done so, to ensure the Ministry of Health officially requests the IAEA for facilitation of an IMPACT mission; to establish/strengthen national radiation safety infrastructure for the use of Radiation medicine.

141. The Ministry of Health (including its Cancer Centre/Institute) in coordination with the National Liaison Office (NLO) for IAEA and the Ministry of Finance/IDB's Governor of the participating countries is expected to approach the IDB for the development of bankable projects.

Cooperation in combating Communicable Diseases:

Polio Eradication

142. The OIC General Secretariat has continued to work closely with international partners in the global polio eradication efforts. In this regard, the OIC Secretary General also continues to maintain his contacts with the leadership of the OIC Member States, non-OIC Member States and philanthropic organizations such as Bill Gates Foundation.

143. The OIC General Secretariat participated in the meeting of religious scholars and leaders from OIC Member States which was organized by the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) in Cairo in March 2013 to mobilize support for polio eradication and immunization in the OIC Member States. The OIC appealed to the religious scholars and leaders to support the polio eradication campaign and encourage the people to respond positively to it.

144. Subsequently, the OIC General Secretariat secured a new religious injunction from the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) which issued the Second Declaration of the Obligatory Nature of Polio Vaccination.

145. Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the UN Office in Geneva attended the special meeting of the Global Polio Partners Group (PPG) with Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on 24 January 2013 in Geneva. The meeting covered the history and current progress on polio eradication; the importance of the new Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan; the need for financing pledges now to support the plan; and the importance of the actions of a wide variety of stakeholders to the success of the initiative.

Malaria

146. Executive Director of Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Secretariat Dr. Fatoumata Nafou-Traore visited the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 12 February 2013. The OIC General Secretariat and RBM Secretariat discussed ways to boost cooperation, including:

- Involvement of the RMB in drafting the OIC-SHPA 2012-2022 and its Implementation Plan as well as possible RMB activities to implement the OIC-SHPA;
- Participation of RBM in the Fourth session of Islamic Conference of Health and in preparation of a concept paper for a Panel discussion at the Fourth session of ICHM on Eradication of Malaria;
- Making available effective and affordable medicine/vaccine to OIC Member States and exploring possibility of linking the OIC vaccine manufactures group with the international groups developing malaria vaccine.
- Innovative funding.
- Preparation of joint OIC-RBM cooperation action plan.
- Development and preparation of advocacy material and information distributed at/during OIC Conference of Foreign Ministers, Health Ministers Conferences and other OIC meetings.

Tuberculosis

147. The OIC countries accounted for half a million deaths out of the total 1.4 million who died of the disease in 2011. In this regard, the OIC and Stop TB Partnership have developed joint programme of work to strengthen their cooperation to eliminate Tuberculosis from the OIC region.

148. On the occasion of the World TB Day, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Stop TB Partnership reaffirmed their commitment to take effective action to overcome the deadly disease of Tuberculosis and to work together in this regard. They recognized the threat posed by TB, an airborne disease which is developing drug-resistant strains, in an increasingly interconnected world.

149. TB prevention and treatment will be one of the priority issues discussed during the 4th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in October 2013. The OIC looks forward to working with international partners, including the WHO and Stop TB Partnership, to benefit from the new tools and tests being developed for the prevention diagnosis and treatment of TB including development of new drugs and vaccines.

Cooperation with the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis and Malaria

150. Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the OIC and the Global Fund in May 2009, the OIC continues its advocacy to all Member States to render their support to the Global Fund.

151. The OIC and the Global Fund briefed the Permanent Representatives of the OIC the Member States to UN in New York on the cooperation between the two organizations to fight HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis and Malaria prior to the UN General Assembly in 2012. The meeting welcomed and appreciated the information provided and expressed fully supported to the efforts.

152. The OIC Permanent Observer Office in Brussels participated in a Preparatory Meeting on the Fourth Replenishment (2014-2016) of the Global Fund held in Brussels on 9 – 10 April 2013. The meeting highlighted the role of strong partnerships and international solidarity to ensure sufficient resources to provide countries with access to science and technology to be able to design and implement appropriate interventions to fight against HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Cooperation with GAVI Alliance

153. The GAVI Alliance delegation led by its Chief Executive Officer Dr. Seth Berkley paid visit to the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 11 March 2013. The delegation briefed the OIC on the GAVI Alliance unique public-private global health partnership committed to saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing access to immunization in developing countries including OIC Member Countries.

154. The two sides explored possible ways of strengthening cooperation in particular to ensure every child in the OIC Member States will be immunized and for the OIC countries achieving self reliance on production of vaccines.

155. It was decided to involve the GAVI Alliance in drafting the OIC-SHPA 2012-2022 and its Implementation Plan as well as possible GAVI activities to implement the OIC-SHPA;

156. It was agreed that GAVI would be invited to participate in the Fourth session of Islamic Conference of Health.

Mother and Child Health Care

157. The OIC General Secretariat is collaborating with the UNFPA office in Ankara and SESRIC to engage religious and cultural leaders to assist and facilitate implementation of the joint project on Mother and Child Health (MCH). English translation of six training materials prepared by the UNFPA office in Ankara for religious and cultural leaders was shared with USAID. The UNFPA Office in Ankara and SESRIC are considering possibility of organizing training courses for the trainers on the subject.

158. In addition, upon the request by the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC is developing a business case for investment in maternal and newborn health in OIC countries. This will include the economic return for investing in mothers and young children and need among OIC countries. After endorsement by the Ministers of Health, the analysis will be presented to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The expected result is to build champions for maternal and newborn health.

159. The issue of MCH was selected as theme for one of the sessions of the Panel Discussion at the Fourth Islamic Conference of Health Ministers. The concept paper is being prepared by the OIC General Secretariat in coordination with USAID and SESRIC.

Establishment of the OIC Health Implementation Unit (HIU)

160. The Governments of Kazakhstan and Indonesia are in the process of developing suitable mechanism to place qualified health specialists at the OIC General Secretariat.

Activities of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) in the domain of Health

COMSTECH-WHO (EMRO) Research Grants Programme

161. The Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of the World Health Organization (EMRO/WHO) and COMSTECH established a joint grant in 2004 to support research in EMR countries (all of which are members of OIC) in applied Biotechnology and Genomics. The overall aim of the grant is to promote research, encourage networking, generate new knowledge and stimulate the application of biotechnology and genomic driven interventions in health care.

162. Under COMSTECH-EMRO/WHO joint program Fifty-nine research projects in eleven Member States of OIC including Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia have so far received US\$769,900.

Activities of the Statistical, Economic, Social-research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in the domain of Health

163. SESRIC has lead the preparations of the Draft OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2013-2022 (OIC-SHPA). It has also facilitated the preparation of the Implementation Plans for the six thematic areas of cooperation of the OIC-SHPA. SESRIC is a member in all six working groups of the OIC-SHPA. SESRIC has established six group emails to facilitate the communication and exchange of information within and among the working groups.

164. SESRIC has given special importance to training and capacity building in the domain of health. Under the umbrella of its Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), four health capacity building programmes have been initiated and designed by SESRIC with the aim of enhancing the capacities of human resources in health sector in the member countries. These programmes are: Ibn Sina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-HCaB), Tobacco Control Training Programme, Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Program (OSHCaB) and OIC Network for Occupational Safety and Health (OIC-OSHNET).

165. Under the Ibn Sina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-HCaB), the Centre has organized five training courses in Egypt, Somalia, Turkey and Yemen during September 2012 to April 2013. In addition, the Centre has recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with Aegean International Health Federation (ESAFED) and International Anatolian Health Federation (USAF) to develop cooperation with these institutions to further increase the quantity, quality and scope of the health trainings implemented under the framework of Ibni Sina Health Capacity Building Programme.

166. Occupational safety and health is another major area of interest of SESRIC capacity building activities and so far six training courses have been organized in Brunei, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey under the Occupational Health and Safety Capacity Building (OHSCaB) Programme. SESRIC is also maintaining a roster of occupational safety and health experts. This initiative aims to to facilitate communication between occupational safety and health experts in the OIC member countries, and hence enhance exchange of information and experiences within the Islamic World and promote technical co-operation activities among member countries.

Activities of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in the domain of Health

167. As a cornerstone for human development, the health sector is one of the focus areas of the Bank. IDB's support in the health sector focuses on three key thematic areas: (i) prevention and control of both communicable and non-communicable diseases; (ii) health system strengthening to improve access to and quality of healthcare services; and (iii) alternative health financing to remove financial barriers to access, generate/mobilize additional financial resources

for health and make better use of available resources. The Bank's investment in the sector has increased almost tenfold over the last 21 years.

168. In the area of prevention and control of diseases, the IDB has financed various interventions including procurement of polio vaccines, community sensitization, mobilization and surveillance activities, malaria vector control in Sudan and use of Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in Cameroon. The IDB with other international partners has also implemented projects on river blindness and improving access to, as well as the efficiency and quality of cataract treatment in selected African Member States.

169. Financing of projects on mother and child health has been approved for Sierra Leone. The IDB has also processed a proposal for the Mulago National Referral Hospital in Uganda, supplementing the efforts of the African Development Bank. The IDB project is to establish a specialized Maternal and Neonatal (M&N) Healthcare unit with 320- beds by 2016.

170. Under its self-reliance programme on vaccine production, the IDB is promoting capacity building operations and projects in a number of Member States. With the collaboration of WHO the IDB has developed a comprehensive training programme on pre-qualification, validation and certification procedures for OIC vaccine producers.

OIC-IDB-IAEA projects for the establishment of Cancer Radiotherapy Centers in OIC Member States in Africa

171. The OIC General Secretariat, IDB and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have agreed to pursue joint projects for establishing and strengthening Cancer Radiotherapy facilities in OIC Member States in Africa.

Activities of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

172. In the field of health a number of activities are being implemented by ISESCO to address the needs of the Member States especially in tackling, protecting, controlling and treating diseases like HIV AIDS, Malaria, Leishmaniasis, as well as controlling the diseases associated with digestion.

173. ISESCO, in coordination with WHO/EMRO, also contributed for defining strategic directions for scaling up research for health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

4. ENVIRONMENT

174. The 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Djibouti, from 15 to 17 November 2012, urged the Member States to coordinate their positions to effectively address challenges stemming from climate change and deteriorating environmental conditions, develop environmental policies and allocate necessary human, technological and economic resources for this purpose. It further urged the relevant OIC institutions to ensure close coordination and complementarities in their activities and programmes and stressed the significance of periodic consultations among Member States and the possibility of evolving common positions, where

possible, for articulation in multilateral negotiations relating to environment and climate change issues.

175. The 12th session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Cairo, Egypt, from 6-7 February 2013, underscored the need for robust global cooperation, especially for countries vulnerable to adverse consequences of climate change, including adequate financing and transfer of technology, capacity support from developed to developing countries under the UN Convention on Climate Change. With regard to the post-2015 global development architecture, the Summit reiterated that Sustainable Development should be one of the core priorities with a strong implementation framework backed by the requisite resources. The Summit underlined the importance of transparent and inclusive inter-governmental negotiation process within UNGA on sustainable development goals and post-2015 development agenda.

176. The 5th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers, held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 24 to 25 April 2012, adopted Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development. The Declaration constituted an important input of the OIC Member States for the Rio +20 Summit.

177. The Islamic Executive Bureau on Environment prepares proposals for Islamic strategies and action plans in the field of the environment and follows up the implementation of OIC resolutions and recommendations concerning the environment and sustainable development.

5th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers (ICEM)

178. The 5th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 17-18 May 2011. The Conference was jointly organized by ISESCO (Secretariat of the Islamic Executive Bureau of Environment) and Government of Kazakhstan in collaboration with the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment of Saudi Arabia and the OIC General Secretariat.

179. The Conference adopted Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development. The Declaration constituted an important input of the OIC Member States for the Rio +20 Summit. The Declaration reaffirms the commitment of the OIC Member States to the principles and objectives adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992. It calls upon the international community to renew its efforts to meet the goals defined by the UNCED through strengthened international cooperation, more robust and effective institutional framework for sustainable development backed by the necessary financial and technical resources. It further calls upon the developed countries to honour their financial commitments for sustainable development and take concrete steps towards debt cancellation, easy access to markets, technology transfer and capacity-building assistance.

180. The Declaration cautions against narrow focus on specific technologies or prescriptions which could lead to the creation of new technology dependence, erection of trade barriers or conditionalities on development finance. It emphasizes the necessity for the developed countries to assume their responsibilities in terms of reduction of emissions in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

181. An effort is underway to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the various stakeholders from the OIC and International Bank Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. The MoU will be instrumental for prompting dialogue, collaboration and partnership on disaster risk mitigation among OIC Member States particularly those vulnerable to natural disasters, earthquake and floods.

OIC Water Vision

182. The OIC Water Vision was adopted by the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water held in Istanbul in March 2012. The OIC Water Vision gives a brief overview of the diverse water environments across the OIC countries and the different dimensions of water related challenges being faced by them. It recognizes the critical role of the OIC in promoting cooperation among Member States on water-related issues and its ability to bring together expertise from diverse countries with unique water characteristics.

183. The Water Vision not only identifies the opportunities for concerted action but also lays out a roadmap for promoting collaboration, including exchange of best practices, capacity building and knowledge sharing, among Member States in all aspects of water. The Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water also adopted a set of recommendations for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision.

184. Subsequent to the adoption of the OIC Water Vision, the OIC General Secretariat has been in contact with the Member States for the appointment of National Focal Points to pursue and follow up the implementation of the various recommendations of the Vision document and the Conference of OIC Minister Responsible for Water. The list of National Focal Points designated by the Member States has been updated and circulated to all Member States. The first meeting of the Focal points designated by Member States for the OIC Water Vision will be held soon to give shape to concrete follow-up actions.

185. The OIC Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water (5-6 March 2012, Istanbul, Turkey) strongly recommended the establishment of a web portal on water resources to facilitate matching of needs of Member States with offers in terms of training, capacity-building, exchange of experience, expertise and technical assistance. The Meeting welcomed the offer by SESRIC to collate information from Member States on their needs and offers for cooperation. SESRIC has established the web portal on water resources in OIC member countries (see: <http://www.sesric.org/oic-water-vision.php>) and developed a specific water resources capacity building questionnaire for this purpose.

186. SESRIC has also developed the Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) with the aim of enhancing capacities of human resources in the Member States by facilitating exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices in the domain of water among the member countries and thus contributing to the implementation of OIC Water Vision. SESRIC and the OIC General Secretariat will coordinate for the preparation of Terms of Reference for the Expert Working Group. Terms of Reference for the OIC Water Council and Water Fund will be accomplished in cooperation with Chair-country Turkey, OIC General Secretariat and SESRIC.

Activities of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) in the domain of Environment

187. COMSTECH-IFS Program: COMSTECH has developed collaboration with International Foundation for Science (IFS) located in Stockholm, Sweden for strengthening of the capacity in OIC countries to conduct relevant and high quality research on the management, use and conservation of biological resources and the environment.

188. COMSTECH-IFS Research Grants Program for Young Scientists has been supporting projects in Member States. Under the COMSTECH-INWRDAM Initiative with IFS on Water Resources Development research grants have been provided to researchers in Member States. Besides the research projects COMSTECH-INWRDAM-IFS have also organized workshops for participants from OIC Member States.

189. The 29th meeting of the COMSTECH Executive Committee, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 25th to 26th November 2011, commended 38th CFM for calling upon the Member States to increase investment in the green technologies and advised the Coordinator General to request the IDB to consider the possibility of financing the feasibility study regarding the OIC Blue Print for Green Technologies submitted by the UTM. The Executive Committee also supported in principle establishment of a Task Force comprising Malaysia and other interested OIC Member States on green technologies.

Activities the Science Technology and Innovation Organization (STIO):

190. The Science technology and Innovation Organization (STIO) is planning to organize training and capacity-building courses for relevant officials of Member States on issues related to the development and promotion of renewable energies, climate change and environment.

191. A training course, specifically targeted for diplomats, is being planned with a view to familiarizing professional diplomats to the scientific aspects of international climate change and environment negotiations.

Activities of the Statistical, Economic, Social-research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in the domain of Environment:

192. SESRIC has given special importance to training and capacity building in the domain of environment. Under the umbrella of its Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) is being conducted by SESRIC. This Programme aims to promote environmentally sustainable lifestyle changes and thereby improve the state of the environment in OIC member countries. Under this programme, SESRIC has organized two training programmes in Azerbaijan and Sudan. SESRIC is also maintaining a roster of environmental experts in OIC member countries. The aim of the roster is to facilitate communication between the experts in the member countries. The roster is also expected to play an important role in facilitating the flow of information between SESRIC and the institutions of OIC member countries.

Activities of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in the domain of Environment:

193. ISESCO carries out a range of activities in the areas of environment, natural disasters response, climate change, renewable energies, biodiversity and other relevant fields. These activities include workshops, seminars and training courses dealing with different aspects of the subject and integration of environmental concepts in educational programmes. As the Secretariat of the Islamic Executive Bureau of Environment, ISESCO actively contributes to the convening of the Islamic Conferences of Environment Ministers.

194. ISESCO is promoting global and regional partnerships as they support capacity building measure by providing platforms for sharing experiences, knowledge and identifying region-specific issues as well as ways to benefit from more effective and balanced implementation of the conventions, protocols, agreement etc. ISESCO, linked to the World Summits for Sustainable Development, has successfully implemented joint programmes with international and regional organizations including UNESCO, WREN, UNEP, ASTF, PERSGA, IEPF, UNDP, WHO, IUCN and other institutions in the Member States to encourage capacity building at workforce and institutional levels and to support national initiatives for new environmental science and technologies such as geo-information, remote sensing and earth monitoring technologies. ISESCO and UNEP also collaborated in identifying regional initiatives and programmes, allowing broader engagement of institutions and specialized organizations and the private sector.
