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REPORT

OF

THE OIC SECRETARY GENERAL

TO THE 40^{TH} SESSION OF

THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE OIC (COMCEC)

ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE $2^{ND} - 5^{TH}$ NOVEMBER, 2024

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I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. The present Report provides an overview of the progress made on the implementation of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, the relevant resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, COMCEC and other ministerial level OIC Meetings, since the convening of the 39th COMCEC General Assembly Session, held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 2nd -5th December 2023.
- 2. The Report provides updates on OIC-wide efforts to implement the OIC programmes and projects in such sectors as agriculture and food security; trade and investment; tourism development; poverty alleviation and capacity building, as well as signing and ratification of OIC agreements in the economic domain during the period under review. It also includes contributions from the relevant OIC institutions and highlights the series of activities conducted by them.
- 3. In addition to the various activities conducted by the General Secretariat during the period under review, this Report dwells on the activities of the numerous OIC institutions working in the economic domain. Furthermore, convening of the Seventh Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 17th-18th January 2024; the 16th Biennial UN-OIC General Meeting on Cooperation in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 22nd-24th July 2024; and the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on new OIC Programme of Action for 2026-2035 at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 1st-3rd October, 2024, featured prominently on the agenda of the OIC during this period.
- 4. Similarly, the 50th Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM) was held in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon, from 29th-30th August 2024, under the theme of "Developing Intra-OIC Transportation and Communication Infrastructure: Key Instrument for Combating Poverty and Insecurity". The 50th CFM adopted, among others, a number of Resolutions on Economic Issues relating to Promoting Food Security and Agricultural Development, Labour and Employment, Intra-OIC Trade and Investment, Tourism, Transportation, Poverty Alleviation and Activities under COMCEC. During the 50th CFM, a Brainstorming Ministerial Session entitled "Developing intra-OIC Transportation and Communication Infrastructure: Key Instrument for Combating Poverty and Insecurity" was held. The Ministers exchanged views on means to enhance cooperation to develop transport and communication infrastructure within the OIC, stressing that it constitutes an essential means to combat poverty and enhance security, as this sector plays a crucial role in supporting economic growth and increasing employment opportunities.

II. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- 5. Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors in many OIC Member States as a source of livelihood and employment for millions of people. In this regard, during the period under review, the following activities were carried out towards the implementation of various OIC policies and decisions in the domain of agriculture, rural development and food security:
 - (a) Ninth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development

- 6. The Ninth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD) was held on 1st-2nd October 2023 in Doha, State of Qatar.
- 7. The 9th MCFSAD under the theme "*Toward Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Member States*" discussed priorities and challenges related to enhancing food security in the OIC Member States. It also reviewed the implementation of resolutions of the previous Conferences, including the activities of IOFS, and financing of projects in the domain of agriculture and food security in OIC Member States. The highpoint of the 9th MCFSAD was the decision to establish sessional Steering Committees on the establishment of an OIC Food Security Reserve System; and implementation of the OIC Programmes of Action for the Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities (Rice, Wheat, Cassava), under the Chair of 9th MCFSAD and comprising representatives of OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions, to provide oversight and strategic guidance on these projects.
- 8. The 9th MCFSAD also welcomed the offer made by the Republic of Chad to host the 10th MCFSAD in 2025 and encouraged Member States and the OIC Institutions to actively participate in it. Other highpoints of the 9th MCFSAD include: signing of the Statute of Islamic Organization for Food Security by Jordan, Gabon, Yemen and Iraq; mandating 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; urging Member States to put in place the necessary financial infrastructure and legal frameworks aimed at promoting financial inclusion for rural farmers through providing access to financial products, fertilizers, inputs and services, including Islamic financing models; and calling on Member States to enhance intra-OIC cooperation in the food and agriculture sector to build more resilient food systems, share knowledge and best practices in order to help develop domestic production capacities, among others.
- 9. In implementation of the 9th MCFSAD Resolution, the OIC General Secretariat is currently consulting the Chair of 9th MCFSAD to organize a combined meeting of the above mentioned Steering Committees during the 4th Quarter of 2024 or 1st Quarter 2025. The proposed meeting will review and evaluate the status of implementation of the various actions underway on OIC Food Security Reserve System and OIC Programmes of Action on the Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities. It will also allow OIC Member States to leverage their expertise to offer recommendations and ensure that these initiatives align with their overarching goals and objectives in the domain of agriculture and food security. The outcome of the meeting will be submitted for the consideration of 10th MCFSAD, which will be held in the Republic of Chad in 2025.

(b) Training Programmes and Publication

10. During the year under review, SESRIC prepared an outlook report entitled "State of Food Security in the Least Developed OIC Member Countries". The report highlights the recent state as well as the constraints and challenges of agricultural development and food security in the OIC Least Developed Countries (OIC-LDCs), exploring major issues such prevalence

of undernourishment and food insecurity, implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for agriculture and food security, and climate change, among others. The report also makes a set of policy recommendations aimed at improving resilience of agro-food systems in the OIC-LDCs. SESRIC prepared its regular report titled "Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries 2023", which was presented as the main technical background document for the 9th MCFSAD in Doha, Qatar. SESRIC, in partnership with the IOFS, also prepared a report on "Agricultural Production and Trade Complementarities among OIC Member Countries" and the reports are available on the SESRIC website. Furthermore, SESRIC is hosting 118 indicators under the Agriculture category of the OICStat Database and they are being updated regularly.

- 11. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to organize training programmes in the area of increasing productivity of the agriculture sector and sustaining food security for the benefit of OIC Member States. Some of these activities are as follows:
- 12. SESRIC, in collaboration with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of the Republic of Türkiye, organized a Training Course on "Strengthening Information Management Systems for Effective Disaster-Risk Reduction (DRR) in OIC Countries" on 20th -21st December, 2023;
- 13. SESRIC, within the framework of Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB), organized a Training Course on "*Climate Change Adaptation Planning and Environmental Management*" on 5th 6th March, 2024, for the benefit of 48 experts from 24 OIC Member States;
- 14. SESRIC, within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organized an online Statistical Training Workshop on "SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators" on 26th-27th March 2024, for the benefit of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and relevant national institutions of 10 French-speaking OIC Member States;
- 15. SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and the National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE) of Pakistan, organized a Training Course on "Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)" on 14th-15th May, 2024, for the benefit of experts and executives from the Ministries of Agriculture and relevant national institutions in the OIC Member States.
- 16. SESRIC also organized a Workshop on "*Promoting Food Security in OIC Member Countries through Sustainable Agricultural Inputs*" in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye, on 24th 25th September 2024. The main objective was to establish an effective platform for participants to exchange valuable experiences, knowledge, and best practices in advancing sustainable agricultural inputs for the enhancement of food security.
- 17. Within the framework of the 11th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC prepared and submitted a project proposal titled "*Promoting Food Security in OIC Member Countries through Sustainable Agricultural Inputs*" for the benefit of 15 OIC Member Countries. The main objective of the project is to develop food security in OIC Member Countries by promoting the utilization of sustainable agricultural inputs, such as

improved seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, to help smallholders achieve sustainable growth towards ensuring food security and mitigating rural poverty. The project was approved to be financed under the COMCEC Project Funding during 2024.

(c) Activities of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS)

- 18. As it was reported to 39th COMCEC Session, the Sixth Meeting of the General Assembly of Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), which was held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 3rd October 2023, discussed various issues relating to administration, budget, activities and projects of the Organization and adopted several resolutions. It also elected Amb. Askar Mussinov of Kazakhstan as the Director General of IOFS for a period of 4 years, effective from 1st January, 2024.
- 19. Unfortunately, the newly elected Director General of the IOFS, Amb. Askar Mussinov, suddenly passed away on 10th February, 2024, shortly after assuming his duties. Against this background, the First Extraordinary General Assembly of the IOFS was held virtually on 22nd April, 2024, which elected Amb. Berik Aryn of Kazakhstan as the new Director General of the IOFS. On 28th August 2024, the 3rd Extraordinary Executive Board meeting held virtually approved the candidacy of H.E. Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, as thenew Assistant Director General of IOFS commencing 9th September 2024.
- 20. During the year under review, IOFS has continued to implement the activities under its different programs and projects. Specifically, 15 capacity building activities were conducted in seven (07) OIC Member States, namely, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan and Tunisia during this period. The IOFS report provides an overview of all these activities.

(d) Accession to IOFS Statute

21. During the year under review, the Republic of Cameroon and Republic of Cote d'Ivoire submitted the Instruments of Ratification of the Statute of IOFS to the General Secretariat. As a result, the number of OIC Member States, which have so far ratified the Statute of IOFS reached 18.

(e) Elaboration of a Strategic Plan for Ensuring Food Security in OIC Member States

- 22. As it was reported to 39th COMCEC Session, the 49th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, which was held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16th-17th March, 2023, mandated IOFS, IsDB and SESRIC to design a *Strategic Plan* for ensuring food security in OIC Member States and submit the same for the consideration of the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development.
- 23. Towards the implementation of this Resolution, a Draft Strategic Plan for Food Security in the OIC Member States has been prepared by the Secretariat of IOFS, in collaboration with SESRIC and IsDB. On 15th July, 2024, this draft was submitted to OIC Member States for

their consideration and inputs. Presently, the inputs of OIC Member States are being collected.

(f) IsDB Group Comprehensive Food Security Response Program

- 24. As earlier reported, in July 2022, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group endorsed a US\$ 10.54 billion Food Security Response Program (FSRP) to support OIC Member States in addressing food insecurity. As of 31st December 2023, the total financing approved by the IsDB Group under FSRP totaled US\$4.03 billion.
- 25. Furthermore, IsDB has recently given permission to proceed with the Tadamon Accelerator for Food Security Program. This initiative is geared towards helping Member States address the pressing food security needs of their most vulnerable communities in collaboration with civil society organizations. Details of this programme can be obtained from IsDB.

III. EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

26. Intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of labour, employment and social protection is aimed at improving decent work and occupational safety and health in OIC member states as well as workforce mobility across OIC countries. During the year under review, the OIC and its relevant institutions have continued to carry out activities aimed at helping job-seekers in OIC countries develop their personal and organizational skills, knowledge, and abilities, as well as improving their competitiveness and consequently their performance. This is more so considering the fact that the unemployment rate in OIC Member States as a group was 7.2% against the world average of 6.2% in 2021. Creating decent job opportunities remains a priority for the majority of OIC countries. Accordingly, during the period under review the following activities were accomplished:

(a) 5th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers

- 27. The 5th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 21st-23rd November, 2023 under the theme "*Innovative Solutions and Digitalization of Labour and Employment Services in OIC Member States*". The Conference exchanged views on the current challenges affecting workers and labour markets in the OIC Member States. It also reviewed the progress on the implementation of OIC programmes and initiatives in the field of labour and employment, including the OIC Labour Market Strategy, and activities of the relevant OIC institutions in this field.
- 28. The Conference emphasized the importance of improving occupational safety and health standards for stronger resilience in the future. It also underscored the urgent need for human resources development, especially through up-skilling and re-skilling of the workforce in OIC Member States as a response to the changing world of work amidst digitalization and greening of economies.
- 29. The 5th ICLM further called for effective implementation of the OIC cooperation frameworks in the domain of labour, employment and social protection. The 5th ICLM also welcomed the

launching of the OIC Labour Centre as a new specialized institution of the OIC to serve as an executing agency for implementing OIC resolutions and programmes in the domain of labour, employment and social protection.

(b) Establishment of the OIC Labour Centre

- 30. One of the major priorities of the General Secretariat during the period under review was the strengthening of the various executive institutions for socio-economic cooperation among OIC Member States and for the implementation of the various programmes of the Organisation in the domain of labour and employment. To this end, the inauguration of *OIC Labour Centre*, a new specialized institution of the OIC, took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 22nd November 2023, concurrently with the 5th ICLM.
- 31. The highpoints of the General Assembly were: the constitution of the Executive Board; election of the Director General as the executive head of the Secretariat of the OIC Labor Centre; the announcement of US\$1 million by the Government of Azerbaijan as a take-off grant to cover the expenses of the Secretariat of the OIC Labour Centre for the budget years 2023-2026, starting from 1st December, 2023; and the approval of the organizational structure of the OIC Labour Centre. It was decided that the details of the budget would be decided upon by the Executive Board in consultation with the Director General of the Centre.

(c) Accession to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre (OICLC)

32. As it was reported to 39th COMCEC Session, the Republic of Iraq, State of Palestine, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of Uzbekistan, Burkina Faso and Republic of Djibouti signed the Statute of OIC Labour Centre during the 5th ICLM in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 23rd November, 2023. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize the OIC Member States on the need to accede to the Statute of OIC Labour Centre. Accordingly, during the period under review, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of the Gambia signed the Statute of OIC Labour Centre. As a result, the number of OIC Member States, which have signed the Statute of OIC Labour Centre, reached nineteen (19). Three of these countries (Azerbaijan, Bahrain and Türkiye) have so far ratified the same.

(d) Publication and Training courses

- 33. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to prepare publications and organize training programmes in the area of labour, employment and social protection for the benefit of OIC Member States. Accordingly, during the period under review, SESRIC prepared its regular report titled "OIC Labour Market Report 2023", which was presented as the main technical background document for the 5th ICLM held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 21st-23rd November, 2023. SESRIC also organized, in virtual format, the following activities for the benefit of experts from the relevant national institutions in OIC Member States:
 - 1) Webinar on "Strategies to Support Mental Health at Work" on 22nd February, 2024;
 - 2) 4th Meeting of the *OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET)*, from 29th February, 2024, to 1st March, 2024, in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco;

- 3) Training Course on "*Effective Labour Market Information Systems*" on 13th-14th March 2024; and
- 4) Training Course on "Labour Statistics" on 20th-21st May, 2024, among others.
- 34. Within the framework of the 11th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC developed a project titled "Empowering Youth through Enhancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET): A Pathway to Employment and Success" for the benefit of 15 OIC Member States. The primary aim of this project is to identify key factors for improving technical and vocational education and training (TVET) strategies and increasing the capacities of the staff working in relevant areas of TVET by conducting capacity-building and experience-sharing activities on the topic. The project was approved to be financed under the COMCEC Project Funding during 2024.

IV. INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT

35. Intra-OIC trade activities feature cooperation actions and interventions in the area of trade promotion, financing and facilitation, and export credit insurances. Other areas of activity include halal sector development, women and youth empowerment, food security, innovation technology in the health sector and capacity building programmes, including outcome of the various consultations and coordination with regional and international partners.

(a) Recent Outlook of Intra-OIC Trade and Investment

- 36. According to data of Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), intra-OIC net trade volume reached US\$884 billion in 2023 compared to US\$873 billion in 2022, i.e. a slight increase of 1.23%. This increase in the volume was due to the soaring prices of the commodities worldwide and increased local production to respond to the Member States' demands. The implementation of some bilateral and regional trade and investment agreements also contributed to this growth of intra-OIC trade volume. However, the intra-OIC trade share in the overall foreign trade of Member States decreased slightly by 0.54%, from 19.26% in 2022 to 19.16% in 2023.
- 37. The top ten intra-OIC trading countries in 2023 were: United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Malaysia, Indonesia, Oman, Egypt, Pakistan, Iraq and Qatar. These countries registered 72.80% of the intra-OIC net trade.
- 38. In 2023, a total of 27 countries reached the 25% target of intra-OIC trade target set up in the OIC-2025: Programme of Action. These countries are the following: Yemen, Oman, Somalia, the Gambia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria, Niger, Togo, Chad, Jordan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Mali, Djibouti, Sudan, Egypt, Turkmenistan, Comoros, Suriname and Kyrgyzstan.
- 39. As for the world trade of OIC countries as a group, the share of OIC countries increased from US\$ 2.9 trillion in 2016 to US\$ 4.6 trillion in 2023, i.e. a 54.2% increase. However, the share of the OIC countries accounted for only 9.2% of world trade in 2022 against 9.3% in 2016,

- i.e. a decrease of 1.1%, mainly due to the fragility of OIC economies during COVID-19 crisis and the disruption of the global value chains (GVCs).
- 40. The global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) fell by 12% in 2022 to US\$1.3 trillion due overlapping global crises the high food and energy prices, and soaring public debt. The decline was felt mostly in developed economies, where FDI fell by 37% to US\$378 billion. On the other hand, FDI flows to developing countries grew by 4%, although unevenly, with a few large emerging countries attracting most of the investment, while flows to the least developed countries declined by 16%. FDI flows to OIC followed a similar course as the world trend and fell by 1.6% in 2022 to US\$135.7 billion compared to US\$137.8 billion in 2021.

(b) Trade Financing, Investment and Export Credit Insurance

- 41. As of 31st December 2023 and since its establishment in 2008, the total cumulative approvals and disbursements of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation's (ITFC) reached US\$75.4 billion and US\$63.5 billion, respectively. In 2023, ITFC's total trade finance approvals amounted to US\$6.9 billion, an increase from US\$6.8 billion in 2022, while disbursements reached US\$6 billion against disbursement of US\$6.8 billion in 2022.
- 42. Since the inception in 2008, ITFC has approved close to US\$13 billion to enhance food security in OIC Member States. In 2023, ITFC allocated US\$2.18 billion for this purpose, representing 31.5% of the year's total approvals. During the same year, the share of food and agriculture financing increased by 4.3% compared to 2022, benefitting six countries in Africa and Asia.
- 43. For the next three and a half years, between 2022 and 2025, ITFC aims to provide US\$4.5 billion a part of ISDB's Group's Food Security Response Program (FSRP) to address and respond to the immediate needs of vulnerable Member States. ITFC will also design capacity-building and technical assistance programs to mitigate food security challenges in Member States. ITFC's implementation of the FSRP Program has made significant progress, with approvals exceeding US\$3 billion and disbursements surpassing US\$2.3 billion.
- 44. In 2023, ITFC added 11 new banks and financial institutions to its list of partner institutions in Member States from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cote D'Ivoire, Jordan, Senegal, Türkiye and Uzbekistan. This brought the total number of ITFC partner banks to 39. The total financing approved for SMEs and private sector in 2023 amounted to US\$905 million, a 20% increase from the previous year. Since 2008, the cumulative approvals for private sector and SME clients stood at US\$18.5 billion, representing 25% of ITFC's trade finance portfolio.
- 45. Furthermore, in 2023, a total of 22 trade development activities were executed under the Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB), which aims to promote and enhance trade, investment and infrastructure projects between Africa and the Arab World.
- 46. On its part, in 2023, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) supported a combined US\$6.19 billion of intra-trade and intra-investment

among OIC Member States, representing a 1.4% increase as compared to the previous year. Out of that figure, US\$5.36 billion represented intra-OIC trade among OIC Member States, and US\$0.83 billion represented intra-investment among OIC Member States. Since its inception in 1994, the ICIEC's cumulative insured business surpassed US\$108.3 billion for 49 Member States and this includes US\$86.2 billion in export credit and US\$22.1 billion in investment insurance.

(c) Trade Facilitation

- 47. The General Secretariat has continued to sensitize Member States on the need to give effect to the various OIC multilateral trade instruments in force. During the year under review, the Republic of the Gambia signed the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for the Trade Preferential System (TPS) among the OIC Member States and the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin. The status of signing and ratification of OIC economic agreements, including TPS-OIC is annexed to this Report (*Annex-I*).
- 48. The 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the TPS-OIC Trade Negotiations Committee was held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 10th-11th June, 2024. The meeting reviewed the implementation of the TPS-OIC by the participating OIC Member States. The Meeting also discussed the initiation of a new round of negotiations aimed at broadening the scope of TPS-OIC. To this end, the meeting tasked the TNC Secretariat to conduct a study on benefits, challenges, and potential of the TPS-OIC by taking into account the international best practices. The TNC Secretariat was also assigned to prepare, in consultation with the OIC General Secretariat, a legal explanatory note on the date of entry into force of the TPS-OIC Agreements.

(d) Trade related capacity building programmes and publication

- 49. ICDT organized a Workshop on the "*Development of Digital Trade in Africa for the Benefit of African Member Countries of the OIC*", in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, on 8th-10th January 2024. The objective was to enhance the capacity of African OIC Member States in addressing digital trade issues.
- 50. SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Competition Authority (TCA), organized a Training Course on "*Empowering Competition Authorities for Fair Market Competition*" on 2nd-3rd April, 2024.
- 51. SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia (BAPPENAS) and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), organized a Workshop on "*Halal Industry Development in OIC Countries*" on 24th-25th April 2024.
- 52. SESRIC organized a Webinar on "Circular Economy for Sustainable Impact Entrepreneurship" on 28th August 2024 to explore on circular economy principles in fostering sustainable and impactful entrepreneurship and sharing best practices among OIC Member States.

53. SESRIC and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) jointly conducted research on the implications of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for countries along the Trans-Sahara road, namely Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Tunisia, Algeria and Mali. This research study assesses the contribution of the trans-Sahara highway to increasing trade in Africa following the implementation of the AfCFTA.

(e) Investment Promotion

1) OIC Investment Forum in Africa

- 54. In line with the Resolution of the 48th CFM, the General Secretariat, in coordination with the host country and the relevant OIC institutions, was supposed to organize an OIC Investment Forum in Africa in 2023. The Forum was then postponed to 2024 and the General Secretariat has received offers from 2 OIC Countries in Africa for hosting the said Forum in 2024. They are the Republic Mali, and Republic of Chad. However, the Republic of Gambia and the Republic of Chad withdrew their offers and in favour of the Republic of Mali. The OIC General Secretariat had informed the Republic of Mali about the withdrawal by the Republic of Chad recently, as well as acceptance of Mali's offer to organize this important event. The Secretariat also suggested the Republic of Mali to propose two alternatives dates for organizing the OIC Investment Forum in Africa during 2025.
- 55. The main objective of the Forum is to explore investment opportunities in the various sectors of the national economies in African OIC Member States. Other critical objectives of the Forum will include, among others: identify the frameworks and drivers contributing to a favorable business environment in African OIC Member States; create an opportunity for business leaders to explore the challenges and opportunities in key strategic commodity sectors; provide a platform for OIC public and private stakeholders to meet directly with policy makers at national and regional levels with a view to sharing ideas on ways of improving the business climate; generate the opportunity for public and business actors to discuss ways of enhancing competitiveness by exchanging views on issues such as access to finance and external markets.

2) <u>Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) on the Draft Protocol of Establishment of a Permanent Mechanism for the Settlement of Investment Disputes</u>

56. As it was reported to 39th COMCEC, the 2nd Meeting of Intergovernmental Group of Experts to review the Draft Protocol on the Establishment of an OIC Permanent Mechanism for Settlement of Investment Disputes, which was held in Casablanca, Morocco, on 14th-16th September 2023, requested the General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Trade Development (ICDT) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), to incorporate the proposals made during the 2nd meeting in the relevant articles of the Draft Protocol, and re-submit the revised Draft Protocol to OIC Member States for consideration.

- 57. The Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) took place in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 8th 9th October 2024. The meeting was organized by the OIC General Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Türkiye. The objective of the meeting was to continue deliberations on the study of the development of a permanent mechanism for the settlement of investment related disputes within the framework of the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States.
- 58. The 50th Session of the CFM, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 29th -30th August 2024, welcomed the request of the nine OIC Member States to hold an Intergovernmental Group of Experts' Meeting of the contracting parties to the Agreement for the Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in order to study ways to review and update this agreement. In this regard, the Third Meeting of IGGE emphasized the necessity to postpone discussions on the Draft Protocol for establishing a permanent mechanism for settling investment disputes. This decision is based on the need to align the protocol with the revisions of the Agreement that will be reviewed and updated in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution of the 50th Session of the CFM.

(f) Halal Sector Development

59. In OIC Member States, the overall size of the Halal industry was estimated at US\$3.7 trillion in 2020 and projected to reach US\$4.7 trillion in 2024. The Halal industry has gained increasing importance in the agenda of OIC Member States and the OIC institutions not only due to its economic significance, lucrative business opportunities and growth potentials but also due to its positive impacts on socio-economic development such as through creating new jobs, reducing economic vulnerabilities and alleviating poverty. During the year under review, the relevant OIC institutions, within their respective mandates, have continued to conduct various activities.

i. 18th General Assembly Meeting of SMIIC

60. The 18th General Assembly (GA) Meeting of SMIIC was held on 1st November 2023, in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kindgom of Saudi Arabia. The 18th General Assembly approved the report of external financial auditor for SMIIC General Secretariat for the year ended 31st December 2022. The Meeting also approved the SMIIC budget for 2024, annual mandatory contributions of Member States to the SMIIC Budget and programme of activities for 2024.

ii. The Inaugural Session of the General Assembly of the Islamic Forum for Halal Accreditation Bodies

61. The 49th Session of the CFM, which was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 16th-17th March, 2023, adopted a Resolution on Granting the Islamic Halal Bodies Accreditation Forum the Status of an OIC Affiliated Institution and called upon the OIC Member States and relevant OIC affiliated bodies to cooperate with this forum to carry out the tasks entrusted to it.

62. The inaugural session of the General Assembly of the Islamic Forum for Halal Accreditation Bodies (IFHAB) was held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 2nd November 2023, concurrently with the 18th General Assembly Meeting of SMIIC. The General Assembly formed the Executive Committee of the Forum and approved its temporary statute. The IFHAB aims to enhance mutual understanding and effective communication between accreditation bodies to support the Halal industry at various levels.

iii. Halal Expo and the 9th World Halal Summit

- 63. The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) were co-organizers of the Halal Expo 2023 and the 9th World Halal Summit with the theme "*A Gateway to Global Halal Economy: Unveiling the Potentials*", which was held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 23rd-26th November 2023, under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye.
- 64. The event aimed at supporting local and international players in the Halal industry by promoting innovation and sustainable initiatives. It featured keynote speakers, industry-led presentations, as well as extensive networking B2B opportunities, creating an interactive platform for high-level scientific and business discussions.
- 65. The Halal Expo and 10th World Halal Summit will be held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye. on 27th-30th November 2024. These events are poised to continue their role as important events for the Halal industry and they offer a unique opportunity for participants to engage with industry leaders, explore new markets, and stay ahead of emerging trends.

iv. Makkah Halal Forum 2024

66. The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD), in collaboration with the Makkah and Madinah Chambers of Commerce, organized the Makkah Halal Forum 2024, held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 23rd-25th January, 2024. The theme of this event was "*Innovation in the Halal Market*". The Makkah Halal Forum aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices between the governments, private sector companies and civil society in various sectors such as Halal food, Halal Pharmaceuticals, Modest Fashion, Halal Cosmetics, Islamic Finance, and Halal Tourism. The Halal Exhibition was also organized on the sidelines of the Forum.

v. The 10th OIC Halal Expo

67. The *10th OIC Halal Expo* was initially scheduled to take place in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, on 8th-12th October 2024. However, in view of the Tunisian presidential elections, which are scheduled to be held on 6th October 2024, the 10th OIC Halal Expo has been postponed to a later date.

vi. Azerbaijan Halal Business and Tourism Forum

68. The Republic of Azerbaijan organized the Azerbaijan Halal Business and Tourism Forum (AZHAB) with the theme "*Nurturing Sustainable Halal Ecosystem in the Region*" on 8th-9th October 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan. The objective were exploring region's potential for Halal business and promoting ethical and sustainable practices in the Halal industry.

V. TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

69. The 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), commended the celebration of the City of Tourism Award, and encouraged OIC Member States to actively participate in the commemorative programmes to be undertaken in their respective countries. All Member States were also encouraged to organize annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flow.

(a) Commemoration of OIC City of Tourism Award 2024

70. The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan organized the launching ceremony of Khiva as OIC City of Tourism for 2024, in Khiva, Uzbekistan, on 5th March 2024. The launching ceremony was aimed at kick-starting a series of activities within the commemoration of Khiva as the OIC City of Tourism for 2024 to showcase its rich Muslim heritage before the global community, especially Muslim tourists.

(b) 12th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM)

71. The 12th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) was held in Khiva, Republic of Uzbekistan from 31st May to 2nd June 2024 under the theme "*Development of the Tourism Industry in Sustainable and Resilient Ways*". The 12th ICTM reviewed the implementation of resolutions of the previous Conferences, including the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States. The Conference also selected Dakar (Republic of Senegal), Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt) and Lahore (Islamic Republic of Pakistan) as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2025, 2026 and 2027 respectively.

(c) Tourism Capacity Building Programs

- 72. Within the framework of its Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB), the following capacity building training activities, among others, were implemented by SESRIC:
 - Online Training Course on "Halal Tourism and Muslim-Friendly Hospitality Services" for the benefit of 109 participants from the State Committee for Tourism Development in Uzbekistan, on 8th-12th January 2024.
 - Online Statistical Training Course on "Tourism Statistics" for the benefit of participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and the relevant national institutions of 19 OIC Member States, on 21st-22nd February 2024.

73. Within the framework of the 11th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, SESRIC prepared and submitted a project proposal titled "Strengthening the Capacities of African Tourism Boards through Sustainable Human Resource Management Practices" for the benefit of 17 OIC Member States. The purpose of this project is to contribute to the development of a resilient, competitive, and sustainable tourism sector in Africa. The project was approved to be financed under the COMCEC Project Funding during 2024.

(d) OIC Private Sector Forum on Tourism

74. The 11th OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Forum was held virtually on 7th November 2023 under the theme: "*The Prospects and Challenges of Climate-friendly Tourism in the Era of Sustainability*". The meeting discussed the prospects and challenges associated with promoting eco-friendly tourism in OIC Member States and drew conclusions for consideration by the relevant authorities.

(e) 3rd OIC Tourism Fair

75. The 3rd OIC Tourism Fair under the theme of "An Exclusive Platform Promoting Muslim Friendly Tourism where Traditions and Modernity Converge," was organized by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) in collaboration with the Qatar Tourism Centre, in Doha, Qatar, on 20th-22nd November 2023. The main objective of the Fair was to exhibit tourism potential and encourage investment in the travel and tourism sectors in OIC Member States.

(f) Tourism research and publication

- 76. SESRIC prepared a report on "International Tourism in the OIC Countries 2024: Empowering Smart and Sustainable Tourism for Development" as a technical background document for the 12th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), which was held on 31st May- 2nd June 2024 in Khiva, Republic of Uzbekistan. This report to provide a comprehensive analysis of the state of international tourism in the OIC Member States by looking into a set of key tourism indicators. The report also investigates the niche market of Islamic tourism, which is a promising sub-sector of tourism and travel industry in the Islamic world and beyond. The report concluded with policy recommendations for the development of a sustainable tourism sector in OIC Member States.
- 77. SESRIC is hosting 12 indicators under the Tourism category of the OICStat Database, which are regularly updated.

VI. COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TRANSPORT

78. The OIC Member States recognize that transport is among the key catalysts of economic development and international competitiveness, in view of its role as a critical logistics and service support sector. The improvement of transport and communications facilities among the OIC member states remains an important area of intra-OIC cooperation. In this regard,

this section summarizes the recent developments and planned OIC activities in this important sector.

a) Second OIC Conference of Transport Ministers

- 79. With regard to reviving the OIC Ministerial Conference on Transportation, the first edition of which was held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 7th-10th September, 1987, the General Secretariat, in August 2024, has again requested OIC Member States to indicate their willingness to host the proposed Conference during 2025 and presently a concrete offer to host the Conference from any OIC Member State is being awaited.
- 80. In a related development, the Brainstorming Session of the 50th CFM on the theme "Developing intra-OIC Transportation and Communication Infrastructure: Key Instrument for Combating Poverty and Insecurity", which was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 29th August, 2024, emphasized the need to revive the OIC Ministerial Conference on Transportation to discuss issues relating to fostering intra-OIC cooperation on transportation.
- Against this background, there is a need for OIC Member States to develop a clear and well-defined OIC cooperation framework in the domain of transportation, which will be the basis for developing transport corridors and networks aimed at enhancing physical connectivity and facilitating trade and investment in OIC Member States. In doing so, the rejuvenating the OIC Conference of Transport Ministers could be crucial. It is important to note here that the 48th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers, which was held in Pakistan on 22nd-23rd March, 2022, welcomed the initiative of the Republic of Indonesia to host the future editions of the OIC Conference of Transport Ministers, although it was not specific as to when it will be ready to host one.

b) Implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project

- 82. With regard to execution of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project, since the 39th Session of COMCEC, the OIC General Secretariat has not received any information indicating any further action undertaken from the side of the concerned OIC Member States, which are involved in this project. The General Secretariat has requested for updates from the concerned countries on their specific national components of this transport corridor. So far only two have sent information about their national segment of the Project. The role of the General Secretariat is to continue advocating and following up the implementation of this project with concerned Member States.
- 83. In this regard, the above-mentioned Brainstorming Session of the 50th CFM underscored the need to expeditiously implement the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project in collaboration with the African Union.
- 84. In view of the foregoing, the General Secretariat is presently making necessary arrangements for organizing the 2nd Stakeholders' Meeting on this Project in 2024/2025. This event would enable the participating OIC Member States to present their national segments of the project.

It will also bring together the various stakeholders, with the hope that they will articulate their possible contributions towards the project, and highlight how their envisaged partnership will accelerate the execution of this project.

- c) Publications and Capacity building programmes in the Transportation Sector
- During the year under review, SESRIC completed a study on "Transportation for Development in OIC Member Countries: Implications for Trade and Tourism and Challenges for Landlocked Countries" to examine the current state of the transport sector and potential constraints to connectivity across OIC Member States. Specifically, the report outlines the current state of the transport sector and potential constraints to connectivity that need to be addressed across OIC Member States with a special reference to issues and challenges faced by the Landlocked OIC Member States in this domain. In doing so, the report promotes the idea of a well-connected OIC region, with modern and functional transport infrastructure, easier passage at border gates, faster foreign trade, and operational economic corridors that may widen the basis and opportunities for economic growth and welfare.
- 86. Within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organized two online Statistical Training Courses on "SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure) Indicators" on 18th -19th December, 2023, and on 17th-18th January 2024, respectively for the benefit of participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and the relevant national institutions of Arab and French speaking OIC Member States.
- 87. SESRIC is also hosting 43 indicators under the Transportation and Communication category of the OICStat Database and they are being updated regularly.

VII. ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

88. Private sector growth is widely acknowledged to be an essential component in promoting sustainable socio-economic development and providing more economic opportunities in any given society. Recognizing this, the various CFM sessions called on member states to mainstream the role of the Private sector for the advancement of socio-economic development and cooperation within the OIC. Accordingly, this section of the report summarizes the activities of the relevant OIC institutions in this sector.

(a) The 36th Board of Directors' Meeting of ICCD

- 89. The 36th Meeting of the Board of Directors of Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) was held back-to-back with the "*Invest in Digital Economy*" Forum, which was co-organized by ICCD and the Jordan Chamber of Commerce (JCC), in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on 26th 27th May, 2024.
- 90. The Board of Directors Meeting discussed the ICCD's "Manafea" and Empowering Palestine's Economy Initiatives as well as the ICCD's accreditation programme, approved

by the 68th Meeting of the Financial Committee, which was held in Amman, Jordan, on 26th May 2024.

(b) ICCD projects

- 91. As part of its ongoing efforts to support and promote sustainable development in OIC Member States, ICCD has initiated several projects. These projects include:
 - **Best of Entrepreneurship (BOE) Series.** BOE Series aim at promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing trade and investment among the OIC Member States. The 1st BOE Asia was held in Karachi, Pakistan, on 28th August, 2024.
 - ICCD's Accreditation Program: ICCD officially launched its accreditation program as of January 2023, which aims to develop and improve the services provided by the chambers of commerce in member countries, as well as guiding them towards sustainability.
 - Initiative for Women Business Owners across OIC Countries. Under this project, ICCD will be conduct research-based activities titled 'Building Knowledge on Established and High Potential Women Entrepreneurs in the OIC', initially targeting Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Türkiye. The activities aim to i). Identify the motivators and critical success factors of the leading women entrepreneurs, ii). Learn about the socio-economic impact of the top women-led businesses through owned businesses or NGOs, iii). Identify opportunities and barriers unique to them and their growth in the OIC. In this regard, ICCD held its first focus group activity among prominent businesswomen in Karachi on 25th January, 2024.
 - Empowering Palestine's Economy Initiative. The initiative aims to revive the
 Palestinian economy by mobilizing the role of the private sector, focusing on
 enhancing digital empowerment, establishing a comprehensive system for distance
 education, bolstering businesses through financial initiatives and infrastructure
 development for remote work, and fostering economic independence and resilience.

(c) OIC Arbitration Centre

92. The OIC Arbitration Centre (OIC-AC) made significant strides in 2023, solidifying its structure, governance, and international presence. Key achievements include: establishing an Executive Committee, publishing its Arbitration Rules, designating the members of International Supervisory Board, sponsoring and/or participating in the prominent arbitration events in Türkiye, the UK, and Uzbekistan, as well as organizing side events in the margin of international meetings, and engaging with stakeholders through meetings and MoUs. The Centre also actively participated in international events, such as UNCITRAL Working Groups. Besides, within the scope of the institutionalizing endeavors, the Identity Document (History, Objectives, Vision, Mission, and Core Values), the Milestones and Internal Regulations of the OIC-AC were approved. In April 2024, the OIC-AC appointed its new Secretary General Dr. Umar A. Oseni.

(d) OIC Private Sector Forum

- 93. In line with the 49th CFM Resolution, the General Secretariat, in coordination with the host country, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the relevant OIC institutions, will organize an OIC Private Sector Forum in 2024. The main objective of the Private Sector Forum is to strengthen the role of the private sector in OIC Member States as an engine of growth, while capitalizing on the experiences and lessons learned from different parts of the OIC region, and institutionalizing policy dialogue at OIC level on the development of the private sector. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, however, requested to postpone the Forum to 2025 and the exact date of the Forum will be confirm in due course.
- 94. Other specific objectives of the Forum are: mainstreaming the role of the private sector in socio-economic development during recovery and post-pandemic era; increasing the share of the Private Sector in GDP and employment; promoting private sector investment; strengthening the role of the private sector in accelerating implementation of national and OIC programmes of economic development through better mobilization of their resources and potential; and enabling networking opportunities between the private sector actors from OIC Member States to support intra-OIC trade and investment.

(e) Activities of the Islamic Corporation for Development of Private Sector (ICD)

- 95. The ICD, a member of Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, currently has an authorized capital of US\$4 billion and its shareholders feature 56 OIC Member States and 5 public financial institutions. The mandate of the ICD is to support the economic development of OIC Member States through the provision of finance, advisory and technical assistance to private sector projects in accordance with the principles of Sharia. As of end of first quarter of 2024, ICD's gross cumulative approvals stood at US\$8.3 billion and cumulative disbursements totaled US\$4.6 billion.
- 96. In 2023, ICD has approved a total amount of US\$532 million financing. Sectorally, (76%) of new project approvals were earmarked for the finance sector, followed by non-financial sector investments focusing on high-impact sectors such as industry and mining (13%), transportation (5%) and energy (5%). In terms of regional distribution, (35%) of project approvals were allocated to Europe and Central Asia, followed by Asia (25%), Middle East and North Africa (MENA) (20%), sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) (19%), with one regional project based in Asia (1%).

VIII. POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

97. Alleviation of poverty remains a major challenge to the developmental efforts of OIC member states. To this end, the various OIC poverty alleviation initiatives are aimed at creating jobs by fostering skills, competitiveness and entrepreneurship. Accordingly, this segment highlights the latest developments with regard to OIC poverty alleviation programmes and activities.

(a) Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)

- 98. The 50th Session of CFM called upon OIC Member States to redeem their respective pledges to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and to make additional commitments on a voluntary basis, including allocation of Waqf in favour of ISFD so as to achieve the target capital of the said Fund, which is US\$10 billion.
- 99. By the end of 2023, the ISFD capital contribution reached US\$2.6 billion, committed by 48 OIC Member States (US\$1.6 billion) and the IsDB (US\$1 billion). This represents 26% of the targeted capital of the Fund of US\$10 billion. The largest commitments were made by Saudi Arabia (US\$1 billion) and Kuwait (US\$ 300 million). The total amount of paid contributions stood at US\$2.532 billion, of which US\$1 billion was paid by the IsDB and US\$1.532 billion by Member States. In 2023, the total mobilized amount for ISFD stood at US\$8.47 million.
- 100. As the ISFD's capital is an endowment (Waqf), operations, which are for the essential grants and concessional loans, are funded from the retained income. Since its inception in 2007, the ISFD has cumulatively approved around US\$1.27 billion of concessional loans, grants, and investments to finance projects and programmes for poverty alleviation in OIC Member States. The cumulative grants have reached US\$135.3 million, while the loans US\$974.3 million and the investments US\$123.8 million. In total, 51 OIC Member States benefited from the ISFD financing.
- 101. The main sectors of the ISFD financing have been Agriculture (23.1%); Education (20.3%),) Health (18.2%); Energy (13.8%); Economic Empowerment and Microfinance (13.3%); Water and Sanitation (5.9%); and others (5%). The OIC LDCs have been the main beneficiaries, receiving more than 74% of the Fund's financing.
- 102. The ISFD is in need of funds to expand its activities towards alleviating poverty and improving social services and infrastructure. Accordingly, the General Secretariat continues to sensitize the Member States to pay-up their subscribed contributions to the Fund and announce additional pledges to meet the target of US\$10 billion set for the Fund by the OIC Leaders in 2005.

(b) Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA)

- 103. The SPDA was launched in 2008 and aimed at advancing pro-poor socio-economic activities. The sectoral priorities under the SPDA are geared towards promoting economic growth and regional integration. The SPDA focuses on (i) agriculture and food security; (ii) water and sanitation; (iii) power generation and distribution; (iv) transport infrastructure; (v) education; and (vi) eliminating major communicable diseases.
- 104. In November 2012, when the approval phase of SPDA was completed, the level of funding commitments to the Programme by IsDB Group reached US\$5 billion. A total of 480 projects had been approved for financing under the SPDA in 22 OIC African member states.

- 105. Since then, the focus has been on deepening the implementation of approved projects to ensure that the expected outcomes are achieved. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the following projects were completed successfully, while other are still under implementation phase:
 - i. Roseires Dam in Sudan (US\$53.33 million);
 - ii. Basic Urban Infrastructure for Social Housing Project in Bamako, Mali (US\$6.7 million);
 - iii. Social Housing Project in Bamako, Mali (US\$5.7 million); Linguere-Matam Road, Senegal (US\$12.12 million);
 - iv. Construction of the Dapaong-Ponio-Border Road, Burkina Faso (US\$7 million);
 - v. Construction of Koudougou Dedougou Road Project, Burkina Faso (US\$10 million);
 - vi. Construction of Bassar- Katchamba Road Project, Togo (US\$7.5 million); and
 - vii. Post-Conflict Reconstruction Programme for the Centre-North-West in Cote d'Ivoire (US\$20 million), among others.
- 106. The implementation of SPDA is getting close to its end and an analysis of projects completed will be undertaken in due course in order to assess achievements under SPDA. As of October 2022, 55.4% of the approved projects were completed, while 35.5% of the approved projects were still in implementation stage. In addition, 9.2% of the total approved projects were cancelled due to challenges relating to project readiness and institutional capacity of some OIC Member States.
- 107. In view of the foregoing, the Consultative Meeting with African Group Member States of the OIC which was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 17th October, 2022, requested the IsDB to prepare a Project Assessment Report on the implementation of the SPDA and submit it to the concerned Member States for consideration with a view to elaborating a successor programme.

(c) Training courses

- 108. Within its mandate, SESRIC has continued to organize training programmes in the area of poverty alleviation for the benefit of OIC Member States. During the period under review, SESRIC organized the following activities for the benefit of the relevant national institutions in the OIC Member States:
 - Workshop on "Supporting Evidence-Based Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and SDG Reporting: Data and Statistics Innovations" in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye, on 6th-7th December, 2023.
 - Webinar on "Advocating Women's Rights within Family Laws: Best Practices in the OIC Member Countries", on 6th-7th December, 2023.
 - Online Statistical Training Course on "*SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators*", on 19th-20th December, 2023.
 - Online Statistical Training Course on "SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) Indicators", on 22nd -23rd January, 2024.

- Online Statistical Training Course on "SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) Indicators", on 12th-13th February, 2024.
- Webinar on "Renewable Energy Statistics", on 28th March, 2024, and
- Webinar on "*Monitoring Health for SDGs in the Post-COVID-19 Era*", on 30th April, 2024, among others.

IX. CONCLUSION

- 109. The foregoing activities are aimed at supporting OIC Member States' efforts towards promoting sustainable socio-economic development and improving the well-being of the populations.
- 110. Although there has been modest progress in terms of increasing intra-OIC trade, the 25% target would not be reached by 2025, unless there is a strong acceleration from OIC Member States in this direction.
- 111. The establishment of OIC Labour Centre in 2023, as an executive agency of the OIC, will intensify actions towards implementing the various decisions of the OIC in the domain of labour, employment and social protection.
- 112. Equally important is the convening of 12th Islamic Conference of Tourism. The outcome of this Conference is vital for further consolidating intra-OIC cooperation in such critical sectors as developing tourism, improving transport and logistics connectivity within OIC region, among others. There is a need for the Member States to effectively implement the Resolution adopted at the 12th ICTM and actively participate as well as increase their involvement in various OIC programmes in this sector.
- 113. Food insecurity remains a critical issue for many OIC Member States. Accordingly, OIC Member States need to intensify their efforts to further promote intra-OIC cooperation in the agricultural sector in all forms and address food security in a comprehensive manner, including both production and consumption constraints. There is a need for the Member States to effectively implement the Resolutions adopted at the 9th MCFSAD, including and actively participate as well as increase their involvement in various OIC programmes in this crucial sector.
- 114. In view of the role that the transport system plays in stimulating economic and social development, OIC Member States need to revitalize the OIC Conference of Transport Ministers, which could promote and facilitate high-level policy dialogue and coordination among the Ministers of Transport in Member States on the challenges facing the transportation sector in the OIC region.
- 115. The global economic landscape remains volatile and strained by many global challenges. Many of these challenges such as wars, conflicts, refugees, and internally displaced persons, food shortages, natural disasters such as floods and drought, etc, are happening in many OIC

Member States. This is the more reason we need greater cooperation and collaboration in all sectors if the citizens of our Member States are to be better served.

OIC General Secretariat Department of Economic Affairs, 24th September 2024

<u>LIST OF MEMBER STATES</u> <u>WHO SIGNED/ RATIFIED THE DIFFERENT AGREEMENTS AND STATUTES ON</u> <u>ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES</u>

	Commercial Cooperation NAMES OF Adopted as per Resolution. No 1/8-E Resolution.		onomic, Technical and Commercial and Guarantee of Investments Adopted as per Resolution. No 1/8-E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Libya Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments Adopted as per Resolution No 7/12-E of the 12th ICFM Baghdad/Iraq		System Adopted as per		Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS) Adopted as per Resolution		TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS)-OIC Rules of Origin Adopted as per Resolution No. I of the 23 rd COMCEC Istanbul, Turkey 14-17/11/2007				Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union Adopted as per Resolution No 17/15-E of the 15th ICFM Sana'a/Yemen 18-22/12/1984		Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 14th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 1-4/11/1998		Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) Adopted as per		Statute of OIC Labour Centre (OICLC)	
MEMBER																			Resolution the 43rd Taskkent	ed as per No.2/43-E of d of CFM /Uzbeikistan 10/2016
	(1)		(1) (2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify
Afghanistan	8/10/2010	4/2/2018-	8/10/2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/2/2018	-	-	-	-	7/11/2012	10/12/2013	20/7/2016		
Albania	-		16/11/1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Algeria	20/05/1980	19/03/2007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01/12/2007	-	23/10/2007	-	-		
Azerbaijan	20/06/2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/06/2006	-	20/06/2006	16/12/2016	-	-	23/11/2017	01/10/2018
Bahrain	21/05/1980	30/08/1980	-	-	25/11/2005	01/06/09	-	29/06/2009	12/09/2013	05/06/2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30/03/2021	30/03/2021
Bangladesh	05/12/1977	18/04/1978	04/11/1997	-	04/11/1997	17/01/04	24/11/2006	02/11/2009	15/02/2011	23/06/2011	10/09/1983	05/12/2001	-	16/04/1988	-	01/01/2021	28/4/2016	4/7/2017		
Benin	13/8/2012	-	13/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	-	14/8/2012	22/11/2013	11/02/2015		27/06/2019	
Brunei Darussalam	20/5/2015	2/11/2017-	-	-	20/5/015	2/11/2017-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	=	-	-	1		
Burkina Faso	23/12/1985	-	-	19/05/1992	14/9/1993	-	10/6/2009	-	10/6/2009	-	21/10/2001	-	-	-	21/10/2001	15/04/2013	10/12/2013	26/1//2016	23/11/2023	
Cameroon	23/01/1978	11/07/1983	25/10/1994	26/09/1995	24/10/1994	26/09/1995	24/11/2006	20/4/2015	17/11/2007	-	-	-	-	-	-	07/07/2000	28/4/2016	23/05/2022	11/07/2024	
Comoros	28/04/1978	16/01/1981	30/06/2012	-	7/10/2010	-	7/10/2010	-	7/10/2010	-	30/06/2012	-	30/06/2012	-	30/06/2012	-	10/12/2013	-		
Cote d'Ivoire	07/11/2009	-	07/11/2009	-	07/11/2009	-	17/9/2012	-	17/9/2012	-	-	-	12/4/2016	-	12/4/2016	25/11/2017	12/4/2016	24/04/2024		
Djibouti	21/04/1979	-	25/08/1982	-	25/01/2012	2/12/2012	25/01/2012	-	25/01/2012	-	18/05/2010	-	18/05/2010	02/12/2012	18/05/2010	16/12/2016	10/12/2013	-	23/11/2023	
Egypt	08/11/1977	06/06/1978	-	16/12/1978	15/11/1996	31/12/1999	24/11/2005	-	-	-	-	-	11/06/1987	07/05/1988	-	7/11/2012	26/2/2016	2018		
Gabon	23/01/1978	21/01/1908	-	21/01/2008	-	21/01/2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/04/2012	5/5/2012	02/10/2023	-		
Gambia	21/05/1980	11/08/2009	04/09/1993	11/08/2009	05/09/1993	11/08/2009	30/08/2024	31/1/2013	30/08/24	31/1/2013	08/11/1995	29/10/2012	08/11/1995	27/4/2011	24/11/2006	30/08/2012	10/12/2013	27/11/2016	30/08/2024	
Guinea	26/12/1977	10/02/1981	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	17/11/2007	-	12/09/2007	***	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	08/11/1995	20/06/2003	-	2/08/2012	10/12/2013	-		
Guinea- Bissau	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	08/11/2009	-	10/12/2013	-	05/05/2024	
Guyana		-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-		-	-	-	-		-	-	-		
Indonesia	30/04/1979	08/01/1980	01/05/1983	03/12/1983	04/02/1992	14/07/2011	6/09/2011	-	6/09/2011		-	-	-	-	-	05/11/2019	-	-		
Iran	08/11/1995	07/11/1995	08/11/1995	15/09/1994	08/11/1995	12/05/1993	27/04/2009	22/12/2010	-	11/11/2012	08/11/1995	-	04/09/1993	06/10/1993		5/5/2012	10/12/2013	-		
Iraq	02/07/1978	1978	-	9/7/2015	24/10/2001	15/12/2011	-	-	-	-	-	27/10/2002	21/11/2001	09/02/2014	-	9/2/2016	02/10/2023	-	23/11/2023	
Jordan	29/12/1977	10/05/1979	04/11/1998	25/02/1999	01/02/1993	21/12/1998	24/11/2005	13/02/2007	12/09/2007	9/10/2007	26/10/1994	-	12/03/1988	08/04/1989	24/11/2005	13/02/2007	02/10/2023	-		
Kazakhstan	25/11/2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/11/2018	10/12/2013	21/11/2014		
Kuwait	05/12/1977	10/05/1980	18/11/1981	12/04/1983	26/11/2004	17/04/2013	20/10/2011	29/12/2014	20/10/2011	29/12/2014	-		-	-	-	05/11/2019	15/05/2016	15/5/2016		

NAMES OF	General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation NAMES OF MEMBER STATES STATES General Agreement on Promotion, Protecti and Guarantee of Investments Adopted as per Resolution. No 1/8-E of the 8th ICFM Tripoli/Libya 16-22/05/1977 Agreement on Promotion, Protecti and Guarantee of Investments Adopted as per Resolution No 7/12- of the 12th ICFM Baghdad/Iraq 1-5/06/1981		Protection rantee of ments	Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 6th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 7-10/10/1990		Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS) Adopted as per Resolution No 1 of the 21st COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 22-25/11/2005		TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS)-OIC Rules of Origin Adopted as per Resolution No. 1 of the 23 rd COMCEC Istanbul, Turkey 14-17/11/2007				Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union Adopted as per Resolution No 17/15-E of the 15th ICFM Sana'a/Yemen 18-22/12/1984		Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 14th COMCEC Istanbul/Turkey 1-4/11/1998		Islamic Organization for		Statute of OIC Labour Centre Adopted as per Resolution No. 2/43-E of the 43rd of CFM Taskkent/Uzbeikistan		
			he 8 th ICFM of the 12 th ICFM ipoli/Libya Baghdad/Iraq																	
511125																				
	(1)		(2)			(3)	(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Ratify	Sign	Retify
Kyrgyz Republic	-	-	-	1	•	•	-	-	-		-	•	-	•	-	3/5/2015	-	-		
Lebanon	15/11/1996	26/11/2003	15/11/1996	06/03/2005	15/11/1996	11/7/2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18/11/2008	-	7/11/2012	-	-		
Libya	05/12/1977	15/04/1978	25/10/1994	13/02/1996	05/02/1992	02/11/1992	-		-	-	-	-	-	04/01/1989	-	15/12/2008	15/04/2014	08/03/2021	23/03/2022	
Malaysia	18/05/1978	14/01/1981	30/09/1987		30/06/2004	23/08/2004	27/03/2006	20/05/2006	17/11/2007	14/10/2008	-	-	-	•	•	19/11/2014	-	-		
Maldives	17/12/1977	-	-	-	-	11/04/2006	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Mali	27/04/1978	08/08/1981	-	24/05/1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	20/10/2011	-	-	-	-	03/05/2005	10/12/2013	16/042020		
Mauritania	08/11/1977	09/05/1979	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	20/7/2016-	6/11/2012	-	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	6/11/2012	29/10/2014	6/11/2012	20/7/2016	10/12/2013	-	02/03/2019	
Mazambique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	28/4/2016	-		
Morocco	23/01/1978	16/04/1979	02/11/1981	07/05/1990	29/09/1993	25/7/2006	24/10/2008	07/03/2013	24/10/2008	07/03/2013	26/10/2000	25/07/2006	30/12/1985		•	31/07/2006	25/2/2021	-	22/01/2023	
Niger	18/05/1978	07/08/1978	10/09/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	10/9/2012	-	08/12/1984	•	- 0.444.44000	10/9/2010	-	10/9/2010	10/12/2013	12/12/2015		
Nigeria	04/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	40404004	04/11/1998	-	09/11/2009	-	09/11/2009	-	4/11/1998	-	04/11/1998	•	09/11/2009	-	29/08/2019	-		
Oman	15/04/1980 14/01/1978	28/04/1981 1978	25/10/1994 20/12/1981	10/12/1994	06/05/2007 25/10/1994	08/07/2007 11/10/1993	24/10/2008 17/02/2007	20/01/2009 20/11/2007	24/10/2008 03/09/2008	20/01/2009	-	1989	-	30/04/1986	16/7/2010	16/7/2010	15/04/2019	13/07/2020		
Pakistan	28/04/1978	18/03/1980	15/03/1982	15/03/1982	10/09/1992	12/07/2011	27/12/2010	20/11/2007	27/12/2010	20/12/2011	22/05/1983	16/04/2013	03/01/1987	30/04/1986	07/11/1999	19/8/2014	10/12/2013	8/3/2016	23/11/2023	
Palestine Oatar	24/9/1978	09/09/1980	26/10/2000	05/11/2002	26/11/2004	11/03/2007	23/10/2008	27/10/2009	07/11/2009	02/09/2009	21/10/2001	05/11/2002	05/01/1987	11/11/1980	0//11/1999	25/11/2017	28/4/2016	26/12/2017	23/11/2023	
Saudi Arabia	14/01/1978	27/06/1979	23/06/1985	17/09/1984	10/09/1992	01/01/2007	02/06/2008	08/06/2009	09/11/2009	11/08/2010	21/10/2001	11/04/2004	-	-	-	15/04/2013	15/03/2016	30/09/2018	11/11/2018	
Senegal	25/12/1977	28/02/1979	17/06/1987	30/06/1994	09/09/1991	30/06/1994	02/00/2000	-	0)/11/200>	-	17/06/1987	04/02/1989	17/06/1987	04/02/1989	17/11/2007	5/5/2012	11/7/2017	30/07/2010	11/11/2010	
Serra Leone	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	09/11/2009	_	09/11/2009	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007	-	17/11/2007		10/12/2013	-		
Somalia	24/12/1978	-	19/12/1983	25/11/1984	08/11/2009	13/05/2010	08/11/2009	13/5/2010	08/11/2009	13/5/2010	09/11/2009	13/05/2010	09/11/2009	13/05/2010	08/11/2009	13/05/2010	10/12/2013	-	23/11/2023	
Sudan	14/01/1978	-	20/12/1981	30/05/2002	13/05/1992	-	18/03/2013		18/03/2013	-	04/09/1993	26/08/2006	04/09/1993	26/8/2006	26/10/2000	28/01/2003	10/12/2013	-	02/03/2019	
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22/11/2013	10/12/2013			
Syria	04/06/1978	15/07/1980	21/10/2001	04/01/2010	26/11/2004	27/11/2005	23/05/2006	30/07/2008	24/10/2008	15/04/2010	-	02/04/2002	-	-	07/11/1999	-	-	-		
Tajikistan	04/11/1997	-	04/11/1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	01/01/2023	28/4/2016	-		
Tchad	27/04/1978	-	-	-	14/01/1992	-	-	-	-	-	06/02/2013	-	-		-	01/01/2021	27/07/2022	-		
Togo	-	-	-	ı		•	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	•	-	20//04/21	
Tunisia	27/01/1979	13/04/1980	10/06/1982	11/11/1983	21/01/1993	31/07/2000	25/11/2005	-	12/09/2007	-	06/01/1983	11/11/1983	08/11/1995	14/02/2000	18/09/2001	27/03/2006	14/3/2021	-		
Turkey	29/12/1977	02/07/1982	16/07/1987	09/02/1991	23/09/1991	28/11/1991	24/11/2005	02/05/2008	12/09/2007	02/11/2009	-	-	-	•	07/11/1999	15/07/2010	10/12/2013	22/10/2019	11/7/2017	12/01/2024
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-		
U. A. E.	29/12/1977	1979	12/02/1989	14/01/1989	26/11/2004	15/08/2005	24/11/2006	12/10/2008	12/09/2007	12/10/2008	30/05/1989	21/03/1989	30/05/1989	21/03/1989	24/11/2006	05/04/2009	12/01/2015	25/10/2017		
Uganda	08/08/1978	14/11/2001	26/11/1987	10/02/1987	05/09/1993	14/11/2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22/11/2013	10/12/2013	-		
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/11/2018	-	-	23/11/2023	
Yemen	29/12/1977	-	12/06/1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	25/10/1994	26/3/2008	25/10/1994	01/01/2021	14/11/2006	-	02/10/2023	-	- 10	
TOTAL:	49	32	38	29	40	31	32	18	31	18	25	17	24	19	23	42	41	18	19	3

¹⁵th September 2024