

**MEETING ON COMCEC HIGH-LEVEL DIGITAL COOPERATION
INITIATIVE/PROGRAMME**

November 27th, 2022 İstanbul/TÜRKİYE

**DECLARATION
ON
COMCEC HIGH-LEVEL DIGITAL COOPERATION INITIATIVE/PROGRAMME**

We, the Ministers/Heads of Organizations/Representatives in charge of digital transformation in the OIC Member Countries, participating in the COMCEC High-Level Digital Cooperation Initiative/Programme, gathered on the occasion of the 38th COMCEC Session, in Istanbul, on 27th November 2022, to discuss the global agenda on digital transformation and the current state in the Member Countries and to exchange views on how to ensure close cooperation among the Member Countries under this significant area as well as to agree on and finalize thematic areas with the aim of bolstering cooperation and building on shared values and mutual interests.

Recalling the relevant resolution of the 37th COMCEC Ministerial Session held on 24-25 November 2021;

Reaffirming our commitment to the core principles and objectives envisaged in the COMCEC Strategy, the relevant goals of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action, and giving due regard to the resolutions taken by the OIC Summits and CFMs and COMCEC Ministerial Meetings;

- Recognizing;
 - The emerging trends *in availability of high-quality, human-centric and data-driven digital services, platforms and innovative technologies; alongside a workforce prepared for the future of job; based on a secure and resilient digital infrastructure as well as adequate policies, strategies, standards and regulations promoting the common good; including a high-performing digital connectivity encouraging universal, equal and affordable access for all; and therefore, enabling a digital economy allowing businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive, and*
 - The global importance of digitalization *as one of the most important means of sustainability, efficiency, well-being, reliability, higher mobility, innovation, competitiveness and economic growth.*

Acknowledging that digital transformation in the OIC Region is vital for the economic and social development of the countries and has a crucial role in harnessing the opportunities of advancing digital economy through transforming business processes in line with novel information and communication technologies;

Considering the main challenges and problems faced by the Member Countries in terms of digitalization as the followings:

- *Differences in the development levels regarding digitalization among Member Countries themselves and with the rest of the world*
- *The digital divide caused by the connectivity gap*
- *Need for upskilling and capacity building of people with basic and advanced digital skills and competencies*
- *Lack of relevant strategies, policies, standards and regulations in the field of digitalization*
- *Poor digital public services and platforms that provide uninterrupted and high quality services*
- *Limited organizational, technical and capacity building measures in information and cyber security*
- *Need for keeping up with the disruptive technology advancements based on human-centric principles and complex data governance mechanisms*
- *Need for disseminating and integrating the existing innovative potential and digital solutions into the digital economy*

In light of the above-mentioned challenges and problems, we **agree on** the following thematic areas as the cooperation framework under High-Level Digital Cooperation Initiative/Programme:

- *Fostering Cooperation on Cross-Cutting Digital Issues*
- *Improving Digital Connectivity*
- *Advancing Digital Skills and Competencies*
- *Developing Digital Government*
- *Leveraging Data Governance*
- *Strengthening Digital Resilience and Safeguards, including Cybersecurity*
- *Harnessing Emerging Technologies*
- *Promoting Digital Economy*

We **commend** the efforts of Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) for organizing the 1st and 2nd Technical Meetings on September 28th and November 1st, 2022, respectively and for the preparation of the “*Concept Report on the Current State of Member Countries Regarding Digitalization*”.

We **decide** to convene regularly under the “COMCEC High Level Digital Transformation Forum” with a view to enhance technical cooperation and collaboration among the relevant authorities responsible for digital transformation in the Member Countries as well as exchange of experiences, design of joint programs and projects under the aforementioned thematic areas.

We also **decide** that the Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye would provide secretariat services to the Forum.

We **extend** our deepest gratitude to H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, President of the Republic of Türkiye for his wise leadership in the cooperation efforts under the COMCEC.

We **also express** our deep appreciation to their efforts, arrangements and hospitality of Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye.