

COMCEC

**Standing Committee for Economic and
Commercial Cooperation of the Organization
of the Islamic Conference**

REPORT

NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

Istanbul, 20 - 23 October 2003

Original : English

**REPORT
OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION**

(İstanbul, 20-23 October 2003)

1. The Nineteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held from 20 to 23 October 2003. The Session was preceded by a Meeting of Senior Officials on 20-21 October, held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Ahmet TIKTIK, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey, to consider items of the Draft Agenda and prepare Draft Resolutions for consideration by the Ministerial Session.

2. The Session was attended by the representatives of the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC):

1. Islamic State of Afghanistan
2. Republic of Albania
3. Peoples Democratic Republic of Algeria
4. Republic of Azerbaijan
5. Kingdom of Bahrain
6. People's Republic of Bangladesh
7. Negara Brunei Darussalam
8. Burkina Faso
9. Republic of Cameroon
10. Republic of Chad
11. Arab Republic of Egypt
12. Republic of Guinea

13. Republic of Indonesia
14. Islamic Republic of Iran
15. Republic of Iraq
16. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
17. Republic of Kazakhstan
18. State of Kuwait
19. Kyrgyz Republic
20. Republic of Lebanon
21. Malaysia
22. Kingdom of Morocco
23. Mozambique
24. Federal Republic of Nigeria
25. Sultanate of Oman
26. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
27. State of Palestine
28. State of Qatar
29. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
30. Republic of Senegal
31. Republic of Sudan
32. Republic of Suriname
33. Syrian Arab Republic
34. Republic of Tajikistan
35. Republic of Tunisia
36. Republic of Turkey
37. Republic of Uganda
38. State of the United Arab Emirates
39. Republic of Uzbekistan
40. Republic of Yemen

Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus participated in the Session as observers and the Republic of Macedonia as guest.

3. The Session was attended by the OIC General Secretariat and the following subsidiary, affiliated and specialized OIC institutions:

1. Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
2. Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT)
3. Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
4. Islamic Research Center for History, Culture and Art (IRCICA)
5. Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
6. Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
7. Islamic Cooperation of the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
8. Association of National Development Financing Institutions (ADFIMI)

4. The Session was also attended by the representatives of the following international organizations:

1. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
2. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
3. World Trade Organization (WTO)
4. World Bank International Financing Committee (IFC)
5. Developing Eight (D-8)
6. Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)
7. Federation of Islamic Countries' Contractors (FICC)

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Nineteenth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex 1.)

Opening Session

5. The Opening Ceremony of the Nineteenth Session of the COMCEC was held on 22 October 2003 under the chairmanship of H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

6. In his inaugural Statement, H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, welcoming all the delegates, referred to the last WTO Ministerial Meeting held in Cancun. He pointed out that the Cancun Meeting brought about a disadvantageous position for the less developed countries in the world trade. In this connection, H.E. SEZER, drew attention to the Framework Agreement for a Trade Preferential System Among OIC Countries, which has entered into force in the year of 2003. As an important development, He further stated that this was an alternative opportunity to the OIC Member States in the current world trading environment. In this context, he stressed the importance of the Agreement, which would pave the way for growth and raising standard of living. H.E. Sezer expressed his hope that the conflict between Palestine and Israel would soon be settled peacefully, and that Iraq's territorial integrity would gain its sovereignty and political unity would be preserved.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER is attached as Annex 2.)

7. H. E. Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ, Secretary General of OIC made a statement at the Opening Ceremony of the 19th Session of COMCEC. Expressing his profound gratitude to H.E. Mr. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC, for his wise guidance of the work of the Standing Committee. H.E. conveyed his concern over the latest developments in the world economy, especially after the Cancun Meeting, and encouraged the OIC member countries to take the necessary precautions to tackle them. He stated that the primary attention of the Member States should focus on the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States. In this context, he appraised the entry into force of the Framework Agreement for a Trade Preferential System Among OIC Countries, which would pave the way for rapid expansion of intra-OIC trade. He pointed out the important role of the Islamic Trade Fairs organized by the ICDT and that of the efforts by IDB in the promotion of intra-OIC trade.

(A copy of the address of H.E. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ, Secretary

General of the OIC is attached as Annex 3.)

8. The Heads of Delegation of the State of Kuwait, Mozambique and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, made statements on behalf of the Arab, African and Asian groups of Member States respectively. In their statements, they expressed their thanks and appreciation to H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER for his wise guidance as the Chairman of the COMCEC. The Heads of Delegation, referring to the importance of the implementation of the resolutions of the COMCEC, stressed the need for further strengthening economic cooperation among the Member States. They also thanked the President, the Government and People of Turkey for their continued support to the economic cooperation among the OIC Member States as well as for the warm welcome and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

(The texts of the Statements made on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African Member States are attached as Annexes 4, 5 and 6 respectively.)

9. H.E. Ahmed Mohammed ALI, the President of the Islamic Development Bank, addressed the Session elaborating on the activities of the Islamic Development Bank and highlighting the progress achieved by the Bank in terms of the tasks assigned to it by the COMCEC.

(The text of the Message of the President of IDB is attached as Annex 7.)

10. Following the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER received the Heads of Delegation.

Ministerial Working Session

11. The Ministerial Working Session of the Nineteenth Session of the COMCEC was held on 22 October 2003 under the Chairmanship of H.E.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdullatif ŞENER, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

12. The Session adopted the Draft Agenda of the Nineteenth Session of the COMCEC.

(The Agenda of the Nineteenth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex 8.)

13. An Exchange of Views on “Impact of Electronic Commerce and Use of Information Technology in the Promotion and Development of Intra-OIC Trade” was held under agenda item 9. This was initiated with a presentation by H.E. Dr. Ahmet TIKTIK, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting, who gave a brief account on the outcome of the deliberations of the Senior Officials on “Impact of Electronic Commerce and Use of Information Technology in the Promotion and Development of Intra-OIC Trade”.

(The text of presentation of the Chairman of the Senior Officials is attached as Annex 9.)

14. The Heads of Delegation of the Republic of Turkey, Mozambique, Kingdom of Morocco, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Republic of Iraq, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Tunisia, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kingdom of Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Senegal, Suriname and Arab Republic of Egypt took part in the exchange of views, which also included a number of country reports on “Impact of Electronic Commerce and Use of Information Technology in the Promotion and Development of Intra-OIC Trade”.

(Country reports, submitted in writing, are available separately).

15. The Session then adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/19-03/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/19-03/RES(2).

(Resolution OIC/COMCEC/19-03/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/19-03/RES(2) are attached as Annexes 10 and 11, within the context of the Resolution (1);

- Supplementary Mechanism for Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action as Annex 12,
- Ministerial Declaration of the COMCEC Relating to the Launching of the First Round of Trade Negotiations Within the Framework of the Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States as Annex 13,
- Rules of Procedure of the Trade Negotiating Committee as Annex 14, and
- Recommendations of the Workshop on “Impact of Electronic Commerce and Use of Information Technology in the Promotion and Development of Intra-OIC Trade” that was taken note of is attached as Annex 15.)

16. The Session also reviewed the Report of the Meeting of the Sessional Committee, which was held during the present Session of the COMCEC on 21 October 2003.

(The Report of the Sessional Committee is attached as Annex 16.)

Closing Session

17. The Closing Ceremony of the Nineteenth Session of the COMCEC was held on 23 October 2003 under the chairmanship of H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdullatif ŞENER, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

18. H.E. Sher Afgan KHAN, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Turkey and Rapporteur of the Meeting, presented the Resolutions adopted at the Ministerial Session. In His presentation H.E. KHAN summarized the

proceedings of the Drafting Committee highlighting some of the points of agreement.

19. H.E. Ambassador, Thierno Nabika DIALLO, the Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, read out a statement by H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ, the Secretary General of OIC. In His statement, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ, stressed the importance of the economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Countries, which is the real basis for solidarity among them. In this connection, He referred the entry into force of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among OIC Countries as a significant step towards that goal. H.E. BELKEZIZ extended His thanks and appreciation to H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC, for the wisdom and dynamism with which he directed the Session. He also thanked to H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdullatif ŞENER, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister, for His smooth conduct of the Session on behalf of the Chairman of COMCEC as well as to other parties which contributed to the success of the Session.

(The text of the Statement of the Secretary General of the OIC, is attached as Annex 17.)

20. In her statement on behalf of all participating Member States, H.E. Madam Aicha Agne POUYE, Minister of Trade and Head of Delegation of Republic of Senegal, lauded the significant results achieved at the Session and the wise and able leadership of President Ahmet Necdet SEZER in achieving the objectives of the economic cooperation among the Member States. She also thanked to H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdullatif ŞENER, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, for the excellent manner He conducted the Meeting. H.E. Madam POUYE stated that, taking into account the failure of the fifth Ministerial Meeting of WTO, the Heads of delegations of OIC Member States at the 19th Session of the COMCEC had expressed the vital need to strengthen economic cooperation between the OIC countries. H.E. Madam POUYE referred to the promise made by His Highness Prince Abdallah Ben Abdel Aziz, of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to contribute substantially to the IDB resources so as to enable it to continue its support for

the Member States' development. She concluded by thanking the General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office and the subsidiary, affiliated and specialized institutions of the OIC for their contributions to the successful conclusion of the Meeting.

(The text of the statement of H.E. Madam POUYE is attached as Annex 18.)

21. In His closing statement, H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdullatif ŞENER, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister, extended His thanks and appreciation to all parties who made contribution to the 19th Session of the COMCEC. He stated that the importance of the regional economic and commercial cooperation have assumed renewed significance following the failure of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of WTO held in Cancun last September. In this connection, He considered the entry into force of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among OIC Countries as a concrete step in the direction of increasing and facilitating trade volume among the OIC Countries. H.E ŞENER called on the Member States, who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Framework Agreement as soon as possible, and called on the Member States that ratified it to actively participate in the first round of trade negotiations to be held in Turkey in 2004. H.E. ŞENER also pointed out the necessity of active involvement of representatives of the private sector of the Member States in the activities organized by the ICCI. He also thanked the efforts of the IDB for the financial support extended to the private sector in the Member States.

(The text of the closing statement of H.E. ŞENER is attached as Annex 19.)

Original: Turkish

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF H.E. AHMET NECDET SEZER,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(İstanbul, 22 October 2003)

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am happy to welcome you and be with you once again on the occasion of the Nineteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Islamic Conference. I extend my best wishes to all the delegations and hope that your efforts will yield beneficial results.

The rapidly changing world conditions increase the need to further develop the existing cooperation among our countries binded by sincere fraternal sentiments and which are sharing common historic, moral and cultural values.

COMCEC is an important forum established for the purpose of advancing economic and commercial cooperation among our states. Under the aegis of this platform, a multitude of views have been offered and plans have been devised for nearly twenty years in many areas from measures to encourage and facilitate commerce to secure cooperation between private sectors and foster the opportunities for joint investments. The efforts towards exploiting the potential originated at this forum will undoubtedly be more effective and productive during the next period.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Negotiations within the World Trade Organization (WTO) have reached an important turning point. The optimistic outlook, which emerged from the Doha Process several years ago for providing a fair structure to the world trade system as a fair arrangement for both developed and developing countries has not been maintained. The steps expected to be taken particularly by the developed countries in favour of the less developed countries, unfortunately have not been materialized and the impetus acquired in Doha has been largely lost.

Commerce is an essential activity for the developing countries aspiring to wealth. One of the most

serious structural problems of the global economic system is the failure of the developing countries in getting their deserved share of the growing and diversifying world trade.

At the root of this structural problem lies the inefficacy of those countries in efficiently exploiting the resources they have as well as the institutions and rules which determine the mechanisms of international commerce and economic relations. For this reason, there is a need to decrease the income gap between countries and to revise the rules and institutions governing international commerce to make them more sensitive to the problems of developing countries in order to combat poverty and to ensure global wealth and peace. If the necessary measures for this purpose are delayed there will be less hope for the developing countries to have their deserved share of the world commerce and wealth.

The majority of the COMCEC Member States are developing countries. More significantly, 22 COMCEC member states have the status of least developed countries. While endeavouring to cope with development problems, these countries are trying to harmonize with the global rules of trade. Participation of the COMCEC Member States in world trade will materialize at a more fair and just basis if and when developed countries revise their trade policies and take into account the predicament of the developing countries, and provided that the institutions and rules regulating global trade are restructured.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The failure in obtaining a favourable conclusion of the Cancun Conference of the World Trade Organization, as well as the slow nature of trade arrangements at a global scale demonstrate that regional trade arrangements are an option to yield quicker results. The fact that the Framework Agreement for a Trade Preferential System, initiated as a COMCEC scheme in this international conjuncture has become effective during the current year constitutes an important development. The trade negotiations to be initiated in 2004 among our countries as a result of the Framework Agreement coming into effect is the first comprehensive action towards the liberalization of trade in the framework of the OIC. This initiative oriented to the objective of establishing a deepening and comprehensive trade system through the rounds of negotiation to be held is in line with the general principles and aims of COMCEC.

As members of the COMCEC, we have the necessary potential and experience to start and successfully conclude the trade negotiations provided by the Framework Agreement for a Trade Preferential System which we adopted in 1990. The COMCEC Member States, through their membership in the World Trade Organization have taken steps towards adopting the rules of international trade. 47 of the COMCEC Member States, including 17 least developed countries, are either full members of the WTO or have the observer status. The COMCEC Member States have, as well, materialized fairly effective and high potential initiatives in their regional cooperation schemes. There exist regional initiatives which have matured in recent years and are promising for the future. These initiatives include the comprehensive Trade Agreement to liberalize trade, opened to signature by the Organization for Economic Cooperation; the Customs Union among the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council; and the Agadir Initiative started with the purpose to set up a Free Trade Zone among certain countries of

North Africa and the Middle East. In addition to some arrangements among themselves, the COMCEC Member States are working towards important initiatives with non-OIC member countries.

The experiences of the COMCEC Member States in adapting to international rules of trade and in the arrangements for regional trade create a substantial potential to increase trade among our countries. Such experience and potential will certainly constitute a great asset for the success of the negotiations to be started for establishing the Trade Preferential System.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

COMCEC has now reached a significant phase of its mission of strengthening economic and commercial cooperation. We will make crucial decisions within the framework of COMCEC by adopting important documents relevant to the purpose and scope of the Trade Preferential System negotiations to be initiated in 2004. The COMCEC experience in international and regional commercial cooperation is a guarantee that we will successfully carry out the negotiations for establishing a Trade Preferential System which will make significant contributions to the welfare of the Islamic World.

With these thoughts I am inviting you, distinguished representatives of the COMCEC Member States, to take part in the negotiations for the Trade Preferential System.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates

The Nineteenth COMCEC Session must also make crucial decisions relevant to the Economic Cooperation Plan of Action and the Implementation Mechanism. The work in this field carried out since long by the COMCEC Coordination Office and the concerned OIC institutions has now reached a certain phase. I would like to express my thanks to the OIC General Secretariat as well as to the subsidiary, affiliated and specialized OIC institutions.

We expect that the supplementary mechanism, which envisages a more intensive communication and coordination among the concerned institutions, will give a new impetus to efforts to overcome problems encountered in the implementation of the Plan of Action. It is our wish that there will be continued efforts for a more efficient implementation of the Plan of Action. In this context, in addition to technical preparations aimed at enhancing coordination among the concerned institutions, there is also a need to work towards smoothing out the financial dimension of the projects within the scope of the Plan of Action.

In recent years, promoting cooperation between the private sector representatives and businessmen

has become a priority objective of economic policies. For this reason, we are pleased to note that there is a growing emphasis on the cooperation among the private sectors in the COMCEC activities covered by the Plan of Action.

We find it significant and appropriate that at the exchange of views meetings to be held during this Session, the effects of e-trade and information technologies on the development of trade will be discussed. I believe that your discussions will be helpful in determining the policies and areas of cooperation to be implemented by the OIC Member States concerning the use of the information technology which has become the driving force of economic development and trade.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, I would like to refer to the developments deeply affecting the Middle East and causing profound regret and concern in the entire Islamic world. The Middle East is about to enter a new era. We hope that for the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, both sides will accelerate their steps in line with the adopted Road Map and will effectively cooperate to put an end to armed conflict, terrorism and violence. It is of vital importance to make a resolute effort in order to prevent any initiatives to hinder the implementation of the Road Map, including terrorist acts and having recourse to violence. We should not miss this important opportunity for a peaceful solution of the conflict. Materialization of the vision of the coexistence of two states in an atmosphere of peace and security within recognized borders will be the decisive factor for ensuring a permanent peace.

Turkey is ready today, as she was in the past, to cooperate with all sides in order to secure a peaceful, stable and prosperous future for the Middle East.

We are closely observing the developments in Iraq, our neighbour. Establishing law and public order, ensuring Iraqi people's security of life and property and satisfying their basic needs are among the most urgent requirements in Iraq.

Parallel to ensuring law and order and stability in Iraq, sovereignty must be gradually transferred to the Iraqis. During this process, the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity and political unity constitute our basic principles. Uniting all the sectors of the population which make up Iraq around these basic principles is highly important not only for Iraq, but also for the stability of the region.

A democratic Iraq, leaving behind years-long troubles, leading a peaceful, stable, tranquil and prosperous life will make a substantial contribution to regional and international stability. In this framework, a special responsibility falls upon the neighbours of Iraq and the countries of the region to achieve this aim.

As Iraq's neighbour and friend of the Iraqi people, Turkey will continue to spend her best efforts to contribute to the reconstruction process. Turkey will provide continued support in various areas for Iraq's stability and the preparation of a new era in that country. Such contributions will concretely reflect Turkey's fundamental vision for Iraq. Turkey's vision for Iraq is the collective vision of the

Iraqi people and the international community and it does not include any other special agenda.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Guest,

Turkey has always attached great importance to her relations with the Islamic world with which she has close historic, moral and cultural affinity. I would like to emphasise that Turkey will continue to support, as before, the activities of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and COMCEC.

I would like to thank you for your contributions to the COMCEC sessions and hope that your efforts will be greatly beneficial for our aspirations for welfare and peace.

Original :English

RESOLUTION (1)
OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC

(İstanbul, 20-23 October 2003)

The Nineteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul from 20 to 23 October 2003,

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the OIC Summit Conferences and the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling in particular the emphasis laid by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 16 to 18 October 2003, on further enhancing economic cooperation among the OIC Member States;

Recalling the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, approved by the Tenth Session of the COMCEC and endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted at the previous Sessions of the COMCEC and the recommendations made at the Nineteenth Meeting of its Follow-up Committee;

Reaffirming the commitment to removing all obstacles to closer economic and commercial cooperation among OIC Member States;

Having considered the current international situation and its economic and financial repercussion on the OIC Member States;

Taking into consideration the Resolution adopted at the Tenth Session of the COMCEC calling for holding an exchange of views at the annual COMCEC sessions on important world economic developments concerning Member States;

Taking cognizance of the need to follow up the outcome of the exchange of views sessions and coordinate the positions of Member States in relevant international fora in the areas covered at these sessions;

Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to the strengthening of the intra-regional trading system through mutual economic cooperation and progressive trade liberalization for the development of economic infrastructure; and recalling the related decisions of the COMCEC that the subject be on

its agenda as a permanent item;

Recognizing in this respect the need for more cooperation and coordination among OIC Member States to ensure an increase in their share of the world trade;

Noting the background and progress reports, working papers, studies submitted by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on the agenda items;

I. Reports and Studies by the General Secretariat and Other OIC Bodies:
(Agenda Item: 3)

(i) Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat:
(Agenda Item: 3.i)

1. Expresses its appreciation for the Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat (OIC/COMCEC/19-03/D(1)) on the progress achieved by Member States and OIC institutions in the field of economic and commercial cooperation;

2. Notes with satisfaction that the Export Financing Scheme and the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investments and Export Credit established by the Islamic Development Bank in pursuance of a decision of the First Session of COMCEC are functioning successfully; and urges Member States that have not yet done so to make use of these facilities;

3. Also notes with satisfaction that IDB is operating the OIC Information System Network (called "OIC-Exchange" which is accessible through the website www.OIC-Exchange.com) and invites Member States to make necessary arrangements to draw maximum benefit from;

4. Appreciates that the ICDT has reviewed the structure of the Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC) that is accessible through the Internet, recommends to Member States to make full use of it and requests Member States to provide ICDT with data relating to trade, investment statistics and regulations;

5. Urges Member States that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify at an early date the various OIC Agreements and Statutes in the field of economic cooperation with a view to providing the necessary framework for such cooperation;

6. Appreciates the efforts made by the OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (ICCI), and the Organization of Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA), and appeals to Member States to give the needed support and assistance and to meet their financial obligations to these institutions so that they may continue to perform their functions effectively;

(ii) World Economic Developments with Special Reference to OIC Member States: (Agenda Item: 3 ii)

7. Expresses thanks and appreciation to SESRTCIC for preparing, in accordance with the decision of the 12th Session of the COMCEC, annual economic reports on the OIC countries (OIC/COMCEC/19-03/D(09)) containing recent information on economic and related developments concerning Member States within the context of international economic developments;

8. Takes note of the Report of SESRTCIC regarding the recent world economic developments and the implications for the OIC Member States, which has drawn the following salient conclusions:

i. As a result of the global slowdown in world economic activity in 2001, a relatively slight improvement was observed in 2002 which is expected to continue in 2003 but at a lower pace than the earlier expectations.

ii. The economies of some of the OIC countries have become, on average, more vulnerable as compared to the other developing countries due to the intense competition and unpredictable fluctuations in international trade, and instability in financial and monetary flows.

iii. There is need to improve and enhance the capacities and efficiency of the OIC financial institutions with respect to prevention, management and resolution of financial crises in a timely and effective manner.

iv. There is need to further coordinate the OIC countries' efforts aimed at making the necessary contacts with the concerned international parties and organisations so as to safeguard their economic interests.

9. Entrusts SESRTCIC to continue to monitor world economic developments and their implications for the OIC Member States and report to the annual sessions of the COMCEC ;

(iii) Supporting the Reform of the International Financial Architecture: (Agenda Item: 3.iii)

10. Expresses thanks and appreciation to SESRTCIC for preparing, in line with the Resolution No. 2/30-E adopted at the 30th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, the report on the International Financial Architecture, particularly from the point of view of its implications for the OIC Member States (OIC/COMCEC/19-03/D(9));

11. Takes note of the Report of SESRTCIC regarding the International Financial Architecture and its implications for the OIC Member States, which has drawn the following salient conclusions:

i. Since the reform of the international financial architecture is still in process, harmonisation

of the interests of both the developed and the developing countries should be guaranteed at all stages.

ii. As the policies of the international financial institutions are dominated by the developed countries, efforts should be made to acquire an active and higher degree of participation of the developing countries, including the OIC countries, in the process of decision making.

iii. Monetary and financial consultation, cooperation and coordination among the OIC Member Countries need to be enhanced and intensified to achieve optimal use of the resources that exist in the OIC countries. In this regard, consultation and cooperation among the central bank and monetary authorities of the OIC countries needs to be encouraged.

iv. The international rating agencies need to be urged to perform their analysis on a more transparent, objective and sound basis.

12. Entrusts SESRTCIC to continue to follow-up and study developments on the subject and their implications for the member states and report to the next Session of the COMCEC ;

(iv) Report of the Follow up Committee: (Agenda Item: 3iv)

13. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting of 19th Meeting of the Follow up Committee;

14. Also thanks the COMCEC Coordination Office for preparing, and disseminating the Report of the Follow up Committee (OIC/COMCEC-FC/19-03/REP) to the member states and the relevant OIC institutions;

15. Endorses the recommendations made by the Follow up Committee at its 19th Meeting;

(v) Review of Implementation of the Plan of Action: (Agenda Item: 3.v)

a) Report by the OIC General Secretariat

16. Appreciates the report titled Review of Implementation of the Plan of Action (OIC/COMCEC/19-03/D2) submitted by the OIC General Secretariat and requests the OIC General Secretariat to continue to submit to the Annual Sessions of the COMCEC a periodical review of the implementation of the Plan of Action;

17. Requests the Member States that have already offered to host sectoral experts group meetings to expedite the convening of the said meetings; and expressed the view that the Member States offering to host the EGMs are to do so within a specified time period of two years, on the end of which it can be open to other Member States willing to host the same meeting.

18. Appeals to Member States to come forward with proposals for hosting Expert Group Meetings in the priority areas of the Plan of Action, where no EGM has so far not been held;

19. Renews its appeal to the Member States that were the proponents of projects to expedite the formation of the project committees as envisaged in the Plan of Action with a view to implementing the projects proposed at the sectoral experts group meetings;

20. Reaffirms the importance of the need to develop regionally-based projects by a group of Member States in a particular region to get the support of the regional institutions and, accordingly, Stresses the importance to ensure the active involvement of regional institutions such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the and Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) in future experts group meetings.

21. Reaffirms also the need to involve the private sector in developing cooperation projects for consideration by the expert group meetings.

22. Welcomes the offers of Member States to host the following meetings under the auspices of the COMCEC and requests the Member States to communicate the exact dates for these meetings as early as possible:

i. The offer of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host sectoral experts group meetings in the areas of “Transportation” and “Food, Agricultural and Rural Development”.

ii. The offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host experts group meetings in the areas of “Health and Sanitary Issues” and “Tourism”

iii. The offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Expert Group Meeting on the Islamic Common Market, the dates for its convening having been changed from December 2003 to June 2004.

iv. The offer of Government of the Republic of the Sudan to host sectoral experts group meetings on “Energy and Mining” and “Human Resources Development”.

v. The offer of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia to host an international workshop on “Employment and Manpower Exchange”.

vi. The offer of the Government of the Republic of Turkey to host the first round of trade negotiations under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System in April 2004 in Antalya, Republic of Turkey

vii. The offer of the Government of the Republic of Tunisia to host an expert group meeting on “Promoting the Activities of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises” in the field of production and exports.

viii. The offer of the Government of the Republic of Senegal to host the Fourth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism in 2004.

23. Invites Member States to host, where appropriate, sectoral or inter-sectoral expert group meetings in areas of cooperation listed in the Plan of Action;

24. Calls upon the concerned OIC institutions working in the field of economic and commercial cooperation under the auspices of the COMCEC to continue to extend the necessary assistance to Member States, and appreciates the assistance already offered by them;

- b) Report by the COMCEC Coordination Office
25. Emphasizes the need to urgently implement the revised Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States of the OIC, in compliance with the principles and operational modalities of the Strategy and the procedures set forth in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.
26. Stresses the importance of the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the Plan of Action.
27. Endorses the supplementary mechanism, as annexed herewith, developed by the COMCEC Coordination Office, in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat, SESRTCIC, ICDT, IUT, IDB, ICCI and OISA, in pursuance of the relevant recommendation of the Experts Group Meeting.
28. Agrees that the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC is the appropriate body under the supervision of which the concerned OIC institutions are to function and coordinate their activities in fulfilling their mandate with regard to the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action; and, accordingly, adopts the necessary modifications, in Article 11 of the Statute and Rules of Procedures of the COMCEC .
29. Adopts the Rules of Procedure of the COMCEC Sessional Committee to regulate and coordinate the activities of the OIC specialized institutions in the field of commercial and economic cooperation to implement the OIC Plan of Action, as proposed in the supplementary mechanism; and Requests the OIC General Secretariat to submit the said Rules of Procedure to the 31 st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers prior to their submission to the 11th Islamic Summit Conference.
- (vi) Promotion of Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the OIC Member States: (Agenda Item 3.6)
30. Notes with appreciation the Report submitted jointly by SESRTCIC and ICDT on the “Establishment of a Union of Stock Exchanges and Clearing Houses Among the OIC Member Countries” (OIC/COMCEC/19-03/D6);
31. Takes note in particular of the following conclusions reached in the joint report:
- i. It is an important project for enhancing investment opportunities in the OIC countries with the existing stock exchanges, clearing houses and related financial institutions coordinating their policies, rules and procedures in an effort to bring them in line with those of the rest of the world.
- ii. A step-by-step approach may be undertaken for the establishment of the proposed alliance among the OIC stock exchanges and clearing houses in the private sector in the OIC Member States.
32. Entrusts SESRTCIC and ICDT to undertake the necessary studies on creating a mechanism for

cooperation among the OIC Member States in the areas of financial markets and clearing of stocks and bonds without such studies leading to the creation of any new bodies but the activation of the existing mechanisms in such fields.

II. Reports by IDB and ICDT on the Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade: (Agenda Item 4)

33. Appreciates the reports submitted by IDB and ICDT on the expansion of intra-OIC trade (OIC/COMCEC/19-03/D21) and (OIC/COMCEC/19-03/D9);

34. Appreciates the steps taken by IDB through its operational plans to mobilize the needed resources under four schemes, namely the Import Trade Financing (ITFO), the Export Financing Scheme (EFS), the Islamic Bank Portfolio (IBP), the Unit Investment Fund (UIF) and the two mechanisms (two steps murabaha and syndication); and appreciates also the continuous efforts of IDB in this regard enabling it to finance an amount of US\$ 4 billion in favor of intra-trade from 1420H – 1423 (1999-2002) constituting 78% of its trade financing operations totaling an amount of US\$5 billion.

35. Expresses its appreciation for the parallel efforts of IDB to increase intra-OIC trade through financing trade-related projects and technical assistance; and further urged Member States to subscribe to the EFS and to accede to the programs of ICIEC and to other schemes designed to boost intra-OIC trade.

36. Appreciates the efforts of IDB to allocate a total amount of US\$1.05 billion through Two Step Murabaha (2SMF) and syndication mechanisms since 1420 H with about US\$362 million having been approved in 1423H alone under the two mechanisms, of which US\$160million was mobilized from other Islamic banks and financial institutions for the purpose of financing intra trade among OIC/IDB Member States.

37. Appreciates the approvals aggregating US\$1.89 billion made by IDB in 1423 H (2002-2003) under its four trade financing schemes and about US\$16.58 billion or 87.5% of the total amount of US\$18.94 billion approved by IDB under ITFO and EFS since inception.

38. Takes note with appreciation of the ICDT's Annual Report on "Trade Between the OIC Member States 2002-2003" and, while noting that the intra-OIC trade recorded positive results for the third consecutive year as the share of intra-OIC trade in total trade of the Member States increased from 11% in 1999 to 12% in 2001, and the value of this trade reached approximately US \$ 53 billion, expresses the hope that greater efforts will be exerted to further strengthen the volume of intra OIC trade with a greater margin.

39. Requests Member States to provide ICDT regularly with data relating to trade and investment statistics and trade regulations so as to enable ICDT to strengthen its databank to service Member States.

40. Urges the appointed focal points of trade to play a more active role in promoting the trade financing program of the IDB, and requests Member States, who have not yet done so, to expedite the nomination of focal points of trade;

41. Requests Member States to encourage the appointed National Agents for the Export Financing Scheme (EFS) to play a more active role in assisting IDB in promoting its trade financing facilities, in general, and the EFS, in particular;

42. Urges financial institutions, including insurance companies, in Member States to support IDB's efforts, among others, by according more favorable terms to transactions that promote direct trade among Member States;

43. Thanks Member States who have actively assisted in identifying viable trade operations for financing by the IDB, and urges other Member States, who have not done so, to actively support IDB in its efforts to increase intra OIC trade financing;

44. Requests IDB to consider provision of technical assistance for capacity building of the focal points in Member States;

45. Entrusts IDB and ICDT to continue to monitor the expansion of intra-OIC trade and report it to the COMCEC;

III. Reports by ICDT and COMCEC Coordination Office on Launching the First Round of Trade Negotiations of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States (TPSOIC).
(Agenda Item 5)

46. Notes with satisfaction that the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States has entered into force following its ratification by the required number of Member States .

47. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the ICDT for organizing under the auspices of the COMCEC, from 24-26 June 2003 in Casablanca, an Expert Group Meeting to prepare the launching of the First Round of trade negotiations under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among Islamic Countries.

48. Urges the OIC Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System to do so at their earliest convenience to enable them to take part in the first round of the forthcoming trade negotiations.

49. Adopts the Ministerial Declaration of the COMCEC on the launching of the first round of trade negotiations and the Rules of Procedure of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) as annexed herewith; and requests the OIC Secretary General to circulate the above mentioned documents to the OIC Member States.

50. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for offering to host the first round of the trade negotiations which will be held in April, 2004 in Antalya under the Framework Agreement, and urges the Member States which have already ratified the Framework Agreement to participate actively in the forthcoming trade negotiations to be carried out under the auspices of the COMCEC;

51. Welcomes the launching of the first round of trade negotiations under the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC member countries which have ratified the Framework Agreement of the TPS-OIC and will be participating in the first round of trade negotiations to confirm their participation and the names of their delegates no later than February 1st, 2004, to the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating Committee.

IV. Matters Relating to WTO Activities: (Agenda Item 6)

52. Expresses thanks and appreciation to IDB and ICDDT for their reports on matters related to the World Trade Organization (WTO) activities (OIC/COMCEC/19-03/D22) and (OIC/COMCEC/ 19-03/D12);

53. Takes note with appreciation of the Report by the ICDDT on the fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in Cancun from 10th-14th September 2003 and expresses its concern over the lack of progress in the negotiations on the issues of vital interest to the developing countries.

54. Emphasizes in line with the operative paragraph 2 of Resolution 3/9-E(IS) adopted at the 9th OIC Summit Conference held in Doha, State of Qatar, in order to uphold the universality of WTO encompassing all countries to participate in the organization's decision making process to benefit from multilateral trading system, the need to ensure that politically motivated considerations and non trade related issues should not be an impediment to the accession of any country to the organization, and, in this regard, urges the Member States that are members of WTO to address the issue, where deemed appropriate and possible, at the relevant sessions of the WTO.

55. Commends IDB on its report on the activities of the WTO-related technical assistance programme extended to the OIC Member States.

56. Expresses its appreciation to the IDB on its efforts to organize consultative meetings in order to enable Member States to exchange its views and coordinate its stands whenever feasible on all issues of common interest with the aim to prepare for the WTO ministerial meetings and evaluate the results of these meetings; and appreciates IDB's efforts for providing technical assistance to enhance the capacity-building of OIC Member States in human resources development and institutional sectors such as organizing trade policy courses, seminars, workshops on the main topics and providing specific direct technical assistance to the OIC Member States.

57. Commends IDB on its efforts in preparing for the 5th WTO Ministerial Meeting (10-14 September 2003) through holding three consultative meetings for Member States to exchange their

views with a view to arriving, whenever possible, at a unified stand on all issues on the Agenda of the WTO Ministerial Meeting, the latest consultative meeting being held in conjunction with the 5th WTO Ministerial Meeting at Cancun (on 9-9-2003) which was attended by 130 participants from 24 Member States including 16 concerned ministers in addition to various regional institutions.

58. Welcomes the readiness of IDB to hold a consultative meeting for the representatives of the permanent missions of OIC Member States in Geneva in order to evaluate and discuss the conclusions of the 5th WTO Ministerial Meeting and to study the measures that can be taken to arrive at a common vision by the OIC Member States to coordinate a common stand before the convening of the WTO General Council on the 15th December 2003 to discuss the undecided issues.

59. Calls on IDB, ICDT and other related institutions to keep on extending their assistance to the Member States in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations;

60. Calls on IDB and ICDT to pool and coordinate their efforts to reinforce the human and institutional capacities of OIC Member States, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on equitable and fair basis;

61. Entrusts IDB and ICDT to monitor matters relating to WTO activities and report thereon to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned fora;

V. Report by ICCI on the Ninth and Tenth Private Sector Meetings among the OIC Member States: (Agenda Item 7)

62. Appreciates the efforts made by ICCI to organize annual Private Sector Meetings, prior to the annual COMCEC sessions and calls for their continuation;

63. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the United Arab Emirates for hosting, and to ICCI for organizing the Ninth Private Sector Meeting from 21-23 December 2002, in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sharjah and the UAE Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry and with the assistance of IDB;

64. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting, and to ICCI for organising the Tenth Private Sector Meeting from 04-06 October 2003, in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran in collaboration with the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines with the assistance of IDB;

65. Takes note with appreciation of the reports submitted by ICCI on the Ninth and Tenth Private Sector Meetings (OIC/COMCEC/19-03/D(17) and (15)).

66. Takes note with appreciation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of the Ninth and Tenth Private Sector Meetings focusing on steps to be taken to strengthen the role of the private sector in economic cooperation among Member States; and appeals to Member States to give due consideration to these recommendations.

67. Commends the efforts of the ICCI in initiating activities other than the private sector meeting such as Investment Conferences to provide platforms for the private sector to meet, strengthen and expand their business ties;

68. Takes note that the ICCI will organize the 1st Forum on the Private Sector on Tourism in Saudi Arabia in 2004, the 11th Private Sector Meeting in the Kingdom of Bahrain in 2004, the 13th Private Sector Meeting in Senegal in 2006 and Business Woman's Forum in the United Arab Emirates in 2004. (The venue of the 12th Private Sector Meeting is not yet determined)

69. Calls upon the IDB in cooperation with the ICCI to inform the private sector in Member States, of the availability of IDB's lines of financing for trade, investment and its mechanism;

70. Welcomes the setting up of regional offices of the ICCI in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Turkey, Egypt and Cameroon to further expand the network of the ICCI within Member States through their respective National Chambers and took note of the setting up of the Islamic Chamber Research Centre in Tehran within the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines.

71. Encourages the federations and national chambers of commerce and industry of Member States to develop a framework for closer cooperation with the Islamic Chamber and contribute to its programs aimed at enhancing trade and investments among Islamic countries;

72. Appreciates the offer made by the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry to host the 11th Private Sector Meeting in 2004 and calls on Member States to encourage their private sectors to actively participate in the Meeting;

VI. Report of the ICDT on Islamic Trade Fairs (Agenda Item 8)

73. Notes with appreciation that the Ninth Trade Fair of Islamic Countries was organized successfully in Sharjah, State of the United Arab Emirates from 21st-26th December 2002, by the State of the United Arab Emirates and ICDT, under the theme "Free Trade and Sustainable Development".

74. Notes with appreciation the progress report submitted by ICDT on the organization of the 10th Trade Fair of the Islamic Countries to be held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 9-14 December 2004 under the theme, "Intra-OIC Trade and Strategic Partnership for the Development of Africa"; urges the OIC Member States to actively participate in the Fair; and welcomes the initiative of Member States to hold these Fairs, in future, concurrently with some high level meetings as far as possible.

75. Takes note of the proposal made by the Kingdom of Bahrain to consult with the fraternal Republic of Guinea on the hosting of the 10th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States to coincide with the 11th Private Sector Meeting, urges the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Guinea to arrive

at an agreement in this regard before the end of 2003; and requests the Islamic Center for Development of Trade to submit a report on the outcome of these consultation to the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office.

76. Notes with appreciation the Progress Report submitted by ICDT on the organization of the forthcoming first Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries to be held in the Republic of Turkey in 2004, and urges the OIC Member States to actively participate in this fair;

77. Welcomes the offer made by the Republic of Senegal to host the 11th Trade Fair of OIC Member Countries in 2006, and the offer of the Republic of Iraq to host the 12th Trade Fair of OIC Member Countries in 2008;

78. Welcomes the offer made by the Republic of Lebanon to host the Second Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries in 2005, and the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the Third Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries in 2007;

79. Requests ICDT to prepare regularly a progress report on the Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries as well as the Tourism Fairs and submit them under a separate agenda item to the COMCEC Sessions;

VII. Exchange of Views on “Impact of Electronic Commerce and Use of Information Technology in the Promotion and Development of Intra-OIC Trade ” (Agenda Item 9)

80. Expresses its thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Tunisia for hosting the Workshop on the Impact of Electronic Commerce and the Use of Information Technology in the Promotion and development of Intra-OIC Trade among Member States in Tunis from 10-12 June, 2003.

81. Expresses its appreciation to ICDT for the preparation and submission of the report and recommendations of the aforesaid Workshop organised by the Government of the Republic of Tunisia and the ICDT in collaboration with IDB, SESRTCIC and IUT, and expresses appreciation for papers submitted by some OIC institutions such as ICDT, SESRTCIC, ICCI, IUT and ITC on various aspects of the subject;

82. Requests OIC institutions, in particular the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade, the Islamic Development Bank, SESRTCIC and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry to take the step needed to implement the recommendations of the above-mentioned Workshop.

83. Takes note with appreciation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Workshop as annexed herewith;

84. Invites Member States that have more advanced e-commerce and ITC systems to share their experiences with the other Member States and, where possible, to extend technical cooperation for the other Member States upon their request.

85. Refers to the decision of the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, to support the initiative of H.E. President Abdoulaye WADE of Senegal about

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the “Digital Solidarity World Fund; and urges Member States to actively participate in the implementation of this important project.

86. Requests ICDT to follow-up the implementation of the recommendations of the aforesaid workshop and present its report on the subject to the Session of COMCEC.

87. Requests the Government of Malaysia and the IDB to expedite the operationalization of the OIC Network with a view to enhancing intra-OIC trade among Member States.

VIII. Report of the Sessional Committee (Agenda Item 11)

88. Takes note of the Report of the Sessional Committee on the Activities of the OIC Institutions (OIC/COMCEC/SC-03/REP), which was held during the Nineteenth Session of the COMCEC, and the recommendations thereon;

89. Notes that the OIC institutions engaged in the activities under the purview of the COMCEC have taken tangible steps towards increased cooperation and coordination among themselves and with Member States in order to avoid any possible duplication of work;

90. Renews its appeal to Member States to take the measures needed for a greater involvement in the activities of the OIC subsidiary organs and affiliated and specialized institutions;

IX. Date of the Twentieth Session of the COMCEC (Agenda Item 12)

91. Decides that the Twentieth Session of the COMCEC be held from 23 to 26 November 2004, and the Twentieth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee be convened from 11 to 13 May 2004, respectively in Istanbul;

92. Decides that “Trade and Transport Facilitation Among the OIC Member States” be the theme for the exchange of Views at the Twentieth Session of the COMCEC, and requests ICDT, ICCI and OISA to organize a workshop on this topic in collaboration with related OIC institutions, namely, SESRTCIC and IDB and other international Organizations, prior to the Twentieth Session of the COMCEC and submit its report to the Session;

93. Welcomes the offer made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the workshop on the “Trade and Transportation Facilitation among OIC Member States” in 2004 in coordination with the ICDT, ICCI and OISA;

94. Invites Member States to send to the OIC General Secretariat, sufficiently in advance of the Twentieth Session of the COMCEC, country reports reflecting their experiences on the subject matter for the exchange of views;

95. Requests the Follow-up Committee, at its Twentieth Meeting, to draw up the draft agenda of the Twentieth Session of the COMCEC and recommend alternative themes on which exchange of views would take place during the subsequent COMCEC sessions;

96. Requests the OIC General Secretariat to communicate to Member States the dates of the Twentieth Session of the COMCEC and the Twentieth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee;

X. Any Other Business (Agenda Item 13)

97. Takes note of a statement by H.E. Ambassador Erdiñ Erdün, the Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (Ankara Centre) informing that the Centre is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and thanking all the Member States for providing their continuous support and encouragement to the Centre.

98. Congratulates the Ankara Centre on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, expresses its satisfaction, appreciates its activities and reaffirms the importance of its role in enhancing the cooperation among the Member States.

Original: English

**RESOLUTION (2)
ON MATTERS RELATED TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO SOME COUNTRIES**

(İstanbul, 20-23 October 2003)

The Nineteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC); held in İstanbul, 20-23 October 2003;

A. Economic Measures in Support of Palestine

Recalling the resolutions adopted by OIC Summits in support of the Palestinian people;

Recalling also the previous resolutions adopted by the Standing Committee at Ministerial Meetings and at meetings of other committees;

Recalling further the resolutions adopted by the 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in support of State of Palestine;

Condemning the repeated Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and occupation of Palestinian territories in violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and agreements signed and recognized internationally and demanding the cessation of all forms of aggression and the violation of the Muslim and Christian holy places and also demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from all the Palestinian territories as well as of aggressions against the Palestinian people, including the latest Israeli illegal measures against President Yasser ARAFAT, the elected President of Palestine, and the insistence on imposing the separation-wall on the Palestine territories, in spite of the overwhelming international opposition.

Noting the role played by the Palestine National Authority in all its cities, hamlets and camps, including East Jerusalem in order to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people and build up national economy.

1. Appeals to the Quartet to send peace-keeping force to secure the implementation of the Road-Map scheme.
2. Notes with deep appreciation the assistance provided by some Member States and the OIC relevant institutions.
3. Commends the efforts made by the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions and its camps in order to reconstruct what was destroyed, by Israeli occupation, as well as

the Palestinian steadfastness in the face of Israeli aggression and urges Member States and other relevant parties to exert further efforts and provide greater assistance to build up a national economy, develop and consolidate it.

4. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance provided by some Member States to the Palestinian people to build up their national economy and urges Member States and the relevant OIC bodies to provide as early as possible the required and approved assistance to enable the Palestine National Authority and the Palestinian people to build up a national economy and consolidate its national institutions as the infrastructure of these institutions was totally destroyed by the Israeli occupying forces.

5. Reaffirms the previous resolutions on providing all forms of support and assistance: economic, technical and material and moral to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority, recommending preference in import to Palestinian products, exempting them from taxes and customs duties.

6. Urges businessmen and investors of Member States to contribute to the implementation of economic, industrial, agricultural and housing projects in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions, with a view to building up the national economy and enabling the Palestine National Authority and its national institutions to implement their development programmes, during the coming period, in the various economic, social and health fields.

7. Appeals to Member States, to provide employment opportunities to the Palestinian labour force, given the harsh condition imposed by the Israeli occupation forces, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic condition of the Palestinian people and putting an end to unemployment.

8. Urges Member States to conclude bilateral agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organization and its National Authority in the economic, commercial and social fields, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic condition of the Palestinian people.

9. Urges all OIC Member States and affiliated institutions to provide urgent assistance to build up a Palestinian strong and independent national economy.

10. Requests the OIC Secretary General to pursue his efforts aimed at implementing the previous resolutions adopted in support of the State of Palestine and submit a progress report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

B. Assistance to Lebanon

Noting the continued occupation by Israel of Lebanese territories and sites on the Lebanese frontiers and Israel's abstention from withdrawing from all of them to the internationally recognized frontiers, in accordance with Resolution 425 of 1978 and its repeated aggressions against Lebanon and its violation of Lebanese sovereignty in the seas air and land;

Reaffirming the right of Lebanon to compensation for human casualties, material damage and enormous economic loss sustained because of recurring Israeli aggression against citizens and infrastructure and the ensuing great loss in human lives and properties as well as repercussions on economic and social conditions in Lebanon;

Realizing the urgent need of Lebanon to finance the reconstruction of its infrastructure and develop its economic sectors;

Expressing the concern about the threats of Israel to wage war against Lebanon if it attempted to implement its project of channelling waters out of the Wazani river in south Lebanon towards some Lebanese hamlets so as to meet their vital, human and basic needs from these waters in an equitable and fair manner;

Bearing in mind that Lebanon exerts its natural right in using such waters which take their source from its territory and flow through it, in accordance with the rulings of international law without diverting the course of the river or harming Israel;

Appreciating the efforts exerted by the Lebanese government to ensure security and stability, exercise its authority, reconstruct and provide their needs to the Lebanese citizens living in the region occupied by Israel who are confronted with great difficulties;

1. Strongly condemns Israel for its continued occupation of Lebanese territories, including the Shaba'a plantations and sites on the Lebanese frontiers; Condemns as well Israel's repeated aggression against Lebanon and its people.
2. Condemns Israel's threats to wage armed aggression against Lebanon, in particular its recent threats with regard to the implementation of the project of channelling waters out of the Wazani river in south Lebanon towards some hamlets so as to meet their vital, human and basic needs in water.
3. Reaffirms the right of Lebanon to use waters which take their source in Lebanon's soil and flow across it according to its legitimate rights and the rulings of international law, whether for drinking, irrigation or development purposes, and declare that Israel shall bear the responsibility for any aggression against Lebanon should it deprive it from the right to benefit from its waters.
4. Greatly appreciates the assistance provided to Lebanon from some Member States and from the concerned OIC institutions.
5. Reaffirms its previous resolutions urging assistance to Lebanon, financial and humanitarian, as well as various development assistance in the light of its needs in the economic, technical and training fields and requests again the OIC Member States and other international and regional organizations to take urgent and active measures to contribute to the reconstruction of what was destroyed by the Israeli occupation and respond to the proposal of holding a conference of donor countries for this purpose.

6. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

C. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Albania

Recalling relevant resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th Session of the COMCEC;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Expresses its strong support to the people of Albania beset by major economic difficulties at the present phase of their transition towards a market economy.

3. Urges OIC Member States, Islamic institutions and international organizations to grant generous economic assistance to Albania so that the Government of Albania may successfully implement its development programme.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

D. Economic Measures in Support of Uganda

Recalling relevant resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 18th session of the COMCEC;

1. Invites Member States, Islamic institutions and international organizations to grant urgent financial and economic assistance to Uganda so that it may cope with the refugee problems and other related consequences as well as implement its economic, social and cultural programmes.

2. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

E. Economic Measures in Support of The Islamic State of Afghanistan

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 18th session of the COMCEC;

Recalling further the final communique of the 9th extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Doha on 10th October 2001;

Noting the extra-ordinarily grave situation prevailing in The Islamic State of Afghanistan:

1. Recognizes that The Islamic State of Afghanistan was on the verge of a great human tragedy and the impending humanitarian catastrophe calls for immediate emergency relief measures.
2. Urges the Member States and Islamic institutions to extend urgent and substantial assistance to the people of The Islamic State of Afghanistan.
3. Commends those Member States that have already provided assistance to the people of The Islamic State of Afghanistan.
4. Expresses its deep appreciation for the creation of a fund for the Afghan people by the 9th extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. This fund should be established as soon as possible.
5. Expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the OIC Member States for their generous contribution to the newly formed OIC Fund for the welfare of Afghan refugees to return from neighbouring and other countries to their own country.
6. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC session.

F. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Somalia

Recalling resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th session of the COMCEC;

1. Expresses appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. Urges OIC Member States, to provide material and other assistance on an emergency basis to Somalia.
3. Commends those Member States that have already provided aid and assistance to the people of Somalia.
4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

G. Economic Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic

Recalling relevant Resolution of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th Session of the COMCEC;

Expressing its understanding of the situation which has arisen in the Kyrgyz Republic after attainment of independence and sovereignty;

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties of the transitional period to the free market economy;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. Appeals to all Member States and Islamic financial institutions to contribute generously to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Kyrgyz Republic either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organisations in order to enable Kyrgyz Republic to fulfil its economic programme.
3. Appeals also to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Kyrgyz Republic.
4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and to report to the next COMCEC Session.

H. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic
of Azerbaijan

Recalling resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conference and Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers expressing support and assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan;

Referring to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions;

1. Strongly condemns continuous aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan resulting in the occupation of the one fifth of its territory and in one million of refugees and displaced Azeri people.
2. Reaffirms its support of the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and full solidarity of the Member States of the OIC with the government and people of Azerbaijan at this grave and very critical time of the country's history.
3. Recognizes the need to reinforce concrete solidarity of the OIC Member States with the government and people of Azerbaijan.

4. Welcomes and appreciates the assistance extended by the OIC Member States and relevant bodies, the United Nations institutions and international organizations.
5. Appeals to the Member States and Islamic institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the much needed economic and humanitarian assistance with a view to alleviating the sufferings of the Azeri people.
6. Calls upon the international organizations to continue to grant humanitarian, and economic assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan.
7. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

I. Economic Measures in Support of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Guided by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference emphasizing the common goals and destiny of the peoples of the Islamic Ummah and their commitment to the consolidation of international peace and security;

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the OIC expressing its Members' full solidarity with the Government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina;

Taking also into account the resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Istanbul and Jeddah and followed by the special Ministerial Meeting held in Islamabad as well as the 21st through 30th Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers, 10th Islamic Summit Conference and 18th session of the COMCEC;

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the Assistance Mobilization Group for Bosnia-Herzegovina, formed in 1995 during the Kuala Lumpur meeting of the OIC Contact Group Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense towards providing humanitarian and economic assistance for concrete rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by Member States and OIC relevant bodies. It also stresses the importance of the continuation of the activities undertaken by the OIC Assistance Mobilization Group and noted with appreciation the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry's special programme to assist the private sector of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
2. Welcomes the contributions of OIC Member States at the Donor Conference for the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Brussels in April 1996, encourages OIC Member States to pursue their efforts as regard financial contributions for the final return of refugees adopted at the OIC Conference held in Doha in May 2001 and expresses its satisfaction for the efforts exerted by the OIC Committee for the Reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

3. Appeals to Member States, Islamic institutions and other donors to make generous donations as well as provide financial aid to enable the early implementation of the IDB programme aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to the Government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina for the reconstruction of the country.
4. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance provided by the OIC Member States and for the commendable efforts of those Islamic and other international humanitarian bodies in providing relief and assistance to the victims of the aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
5. Urges the International Community to take efficient measures to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
6. Categorically demands that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina be safeguarded and protected within its internationally recognized frontiers and supports the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina in its intent to proceed on this sound basis for a just and lasting solution to restore the confidence of its people so that they may continue to live as a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious society.
7. Requests the OIC Member States, at the same time members of the Peace Implementation Council in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its Coordination Committee to seek directing the biggest part of international assistance for the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina and, in particular, the areas inhabited by Muslim Bosnians.
8. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

J. Assistance to the Republic of Guinea

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th Session of the COMCEC;

Considering the role played by the Republic of Guinea, within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to establish peace and to ensure stability in some Member States;

Considering the presence of a huge number of refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone constitutes an unbearable burden for the economy of the Republic of Guinea;

Being gravely concerned by the repeated aggressions against the Republic of Guinea on its borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone, resulting in loss of human lives, serious material damage and extensive displacement of the population within Guinea;

Considering the Declaration issued on 13 September 2000 by the UN Security Council, condemning these aggressions;

Considering the Final Communiqué of 13 September 2000 of the Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference condemning these aggressions and expressing its solidarity with the Republic of Guinea;

Considering the need for the Republic of Guinea to reconstruct its country, ensure the survival of the displaced population and the return of the refugees to their respective countries;

Noting with satisfaction that a joint mission OIC/IDB visited the zones affected by rebel attacks with a view to assessing the damage and destruction resulting from the attacks and prepare a reconstruction program.

1. Expresses its support to and solidarity with the people and the Government of Guinea.
2. Invites the international community and the OIC Member States to provide the Republic of Guinea with substantial financial and material assistance, so that it may cope with the difficulties caused by the aggressions waged against the Republic of Guinea and the presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees, who are Muslims in majority, on its territories.
3. Appeals to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its assistance, either as subventions or loans at favourable conditions, to the Republic of Guinea, so that it may create the social infrastructures needed for the displaced population and the refugees, and overcome the deterioration of the environment brought about by this massive human presence.
4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report thereon to the following COMCEC Session.

K. Assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone

Recalling the pertinent Resolutions adopted by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, the 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 18th COMCEC;

1. Appeals to the Member States and Islamic institutions of the Organization of Islamic Conference of which Sierra Leone has always been an active member, whose people have experienced the most brutal acts of violence, to urgently extend substantial financial and material assistance to the war ravaged country to enable its people to rebuild the infrastructure and to undertake the much needed rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement of returnees and displaced inhabitants of about 1,5 million.
2. Requests the Secretary General to use his good offices to accelerate the approval process of projects already identified for Sierra Leone.
3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

L. Assistance to the Kashmiri People

Noting that the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the Indian held Kashmir have continued to suffer from grave atrocities and serious repression which have continued against them with increased intensity resulting in greater economic hardship for the people;

1. Recognizes the need for immediate economic assistance to alleviate the suffering of the innocent and displaced Kashmiris.
2. Appeals to all the Member States and Islamic institutions to grant immediate assistance to the suffering Kashmiri civilians in the Indian held Kashmir.
3. Also appeals to all OIC Member States and the Islamic institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and educational institutions in the OIC countries.
4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report to the next COMCEC session.

M. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Yemen

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th COMCEC;

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Yemen, which arose from the burden of reunification and the big losses caused by the aborted secession attempt in June 1994 as well as the devastating flood which swept the Republic of Yemen in 1996;

Appreciating the efforts made and success achieved by the Government of Yemen in implementing the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform;

Taking into consideration the heavy burden borne by the Yemeni Government to provide shelter for groups of refugees from neighboring African countries;

Recalling that Yemen is one of the least developed countries;

1. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Yemeni Government in overcoming its economic difficulties and the implementation of the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and the success achieved in that regard.
2. Also expresses its appreciation for the assistance extended by some of the Member States and by the relevant organs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

3. Renews its call to the Member States and all regional and international organizations to extend all kinds of economic assistance to the Yemeni Government to support its efforts aimed at implementing the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and at alleviating the ravages suffered by Yemen as a result of the floods as well as the heavy burden of sheltering large number of refugees from neighbouring African countries.
4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

N. Economic Assistance to Tajikistan

Recalling relevant resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th Session of the COMCEC;

Taking into account the objectives and principles of the OIC Charter as well as members' commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

Deeply concerned at the critical situation which Tajikistan has faced after six years of bloody civil war, which resulted in death, injury and displacement of thousands of people as well as destruction of its economic and social infrastructures;

Noting the return of about 200,000 Tajik refugees to their homeland which necessitates a great financial and technical support;

Recalling the report of the World Food Programme which estimates that 25 per cent of Tajikistan's population is in dire need of food aid;

Noting with concern the marked spread of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and diarrhea, victims of which are especially infants, children and women;

1. Expresses deep appreciation to the assistance extended by some Member States.
2. Appeals to all members and Islamic financial institutions to make their generous contributions to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Tajikistan either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organisations to enable Tajikistan to fulfil its rehabilitation programmes.
3. Urges the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Tajikistan.
4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

O. Economic Assistance to Guinea Bissau

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th Session of the COMCEC;

Noting the political and social disorders that have recently erupted in Guinea Bissau and their consequences on the economic activities of the country, namely the loss of the agricultural and export products marketing campaign, the mass displacement of the population and the physical destruction of the basic socio-economic infrastructure, such as schools, dispensaries, hospitals, markets, residential areas, etc;

1. Urges Member States and the International Community to provide Guinea Bissau with urgent aid to facilitate the reinsertion of its peoples in active life.
2. Appeals to Member States and to OIC institutions to participate in the rehabilitation and economic revival programme of Guinea Bissau.
3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

P. Economic Assistance to Countries Affected by Drought
and Natural Disasters

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th Session of the COMCEC;

Noting with concern the grave situation caused by drought and natural disasters, and their damaging effects on economic and social conditions specially in the agricultural, economic and social infrastructures, as well as public services and utilities;

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by some Member States and the Islamic Development Bank which have extended and continue to extend technical and financial assistance as well as aid to Member States stricken by drought and natural disasters;

Fully aware that afflicted Member States, most of them belonging to the category of the Least Developed Countries, cannot by themselves, bear the growing burden of anti-drought and anti-desertification campaign and the implementation of major related projects;

1. Expresses its gratitude to Member States, which provided and are still providing assistance and food aid to the Member States affected by drought and natural disasters.
2. Expresses also its gratitude to IDB for its continuing assistance to Member States afflicted by drought and natural disasters and encourages the Bank to continue its assistance in this domain.

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3. Appeals to the international community also to extend assistance to Member States struck by drought and natural disasters.
4. Calls upon the Member States and OIC Institutions to extend urgent assistance to OIC countries of Inter-governmental Authority for Development and the Campaign Against Drought (IGAAD) and Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to enable them to overcome the difficult situation which has been threatening them for a long time.
5. Notes with appreciation the meeting of donor countries and national and regional financial institutions convened by Kuwait at IDB Headquarters in June, 1998 to consider the appropriate mechanisms for financing the new programmes.
6. Welcomes the contribution of 30 million US\$ made by the State of Kuwait in the form of soft development loans as well as the 20 million US\$ contributed by the Islamic Development Bank for the new programme.
7. Also notes with appreciation that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has embarked upon the implementation of its new programme for the control of drought and desertification in the Sahelian African States.
8. Also expresses its appreciation to the Great Peoples Socialist Libyan Jamahiriya for the support and assistance it provides to the Islamic States to improve their infrastructure, alleviate the ills of extreme poverty, drought and natural disasters and ameliorate the health, social and cultural conditions through donations, soft loans and assistance in kind.
9. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

Q. Assistance to Sahelian African States Afflicted by Desertification, Drought and Locust Invasion

Having taken cognizance of resolution (27/7-IS) of the 7th Islamic Summit on Islamic Solidarity with the Peoples of the Sahel;

Taking into account the need for the urgent implementation of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel, which could be compromised if not implemented as soon as possible;

Recalling resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th Session of the COMCEC;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. Appeals to all Member States and Islamic institutions for an urgent special assistance to

cope with a poor cereal crop in the CILSS countries as a result of weak rainfalls.

3. Expresses its appreciation of the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, CILSS and the IDB in the elaboration and finalization of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel.
4. Reaffirms the necessity of giving priority to the rapid implementation of the Special OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel.
5. Appeals urgently to Member States to contribute generously and substantially to the funding of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme in favour of the Sahel populations to crystalize the OIC Member States solidarity with these populations, alleviate their sufferings and ensure sustained development for the Sahel region.
6. Notes with appreciation the meeting of donor countries and national and regional financial institutions convened by Kuwait in June 1998 to consider the appropriate mechanisms for financing the new programme.
7. Welcomes the 30 million US \$ contribution made by Kuwait in the form of soft development loans as well as the 20 million US \$ provided by the Islamic Development Bank for the new programme.
8. Also notes with appreciation the initiation by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the third phase of its program in favour of the Sahelian African States to combat drought and desertification.
9. Urges Member States to announce their contributions to the new programme in favour of the Sahelian African States.
10. Requests the OIC General Secretariat to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

R. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Mozambique

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 10h Islamic Summit Conference, 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th Session of the COMCEC;

1. Expresses deep appreciation to assistance extended by OIC Member States to the victims of floods in Mozambique.
2. Appeals to Islamic Development Bank, all Islamic Institutions and the international community in general to render their material and financial support in order to ensure the reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructures and rehabilitation of the affected people in Mozambique.

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3. Emphasizes the need to promote and encourage the role of the private sector particularly within the context of development of Small and Medium Enterprises.
4. Urges the developed countries to write off the external debt of Mozambique in the light of its critical socio-economic situation.
5. Urges the international community to increase its assistance to Mine-clearance Programmes, taking into account the far reaching effects of the natural disasters.
6. Urges the international community to render assistance for setting up national, sub-regional, regional and international disaster prevention, preparedness and management mechanisms, including early warning systems.
7. Commends the efforts of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to address the devastating effects of the floods, natural disasters and thanks international community for the support, solidarity and humanitarian assistance rendered to Mozambique.
8. Calls upon all Member States to continue their support to the implementation of the programme of reconstruction of Mozambique.
9. Requests the Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

S. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Sudan

Recalling the previous resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conference, the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the Standing Committee at their previous sessions on assistance to Sudan,

1. Expresses deep concern over the sufferings of Sudan ensuing from the devastating war imposed upon it, as well as the influx of refugees resulting from the war, natural disasters, drought, desertification and floods.
2. Commends the positive developments resulting from the Sudanese peace negotiations in Kenya.
3. Urges the Islamic Development Bank, the relevant OIC institutions and Member States to provide urgent assistance to eliminate the effects of war on the social and economic infrastructure.
4. Requests the OIC Secretary General to follow-up this matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of COMCEC.

T. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Iraq

Recalling the resolution of the Tenth Islamic Summit and that of the Islamic Conference of

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Foreign Ministers preceding it on support to the Iraqi people.

1. Expresses its conviction that the Iraqi people should enjoy the required standard of living and economic flexibility to enable them to overcome the consequences of war and economic embargo they underwent for reasons beyond their control.
2. Urges the OIC Member States to extend to the Iraqi people, to the best of its abilities, urgent support and assistance so that they may reconstruct their infrastructure to enable them to effectively contribute to the security and stability of the region and thus lead to sustained development in Iraq and to a solution to the problems and structural distortions in the Iraqi economy.
3. Also urges Member States to contribute, in the coming period, to the reconstruction of Iraq.
4. Requests the OIC Secretary General to follow up this matter and report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

