

Original :English

**RESOLUTION (1)
OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 22-25 November 2005)

The Twenty-First Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul from 22 to 25 November 2005;

Deeply grieved by the recent disastrous earthquake which struck the Pakistani Nation and **conveys** its deep condolences for the victims of the catastrophe.

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 Twenty-First 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-OIC trade through mutual economic cooperation and progressive trade liberalization for the development of economic and commercial 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;

Expressing its satisfaction at the entering into force of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member Countries (TPSOIC) and the successful conclusion of the First Round of Trade Negotiations.

Noting the background and progress reports, working papers and 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.

Appreciating 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 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.

I. Background Reports

(Agenda Item: 3)

(i) *Background Report and study submitted by the OIC General Secretariat*

(Agenda Item: 3.i)

1. **Takes Note** the Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat [(OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(1))] on the progress achieved by Member States and OIC institutions in the field of economic and commercial cooperation.

2. **Recognizes** the importance of tourism as an area of cooperation among the OIC Member States and **notes with satisfaction** the commitment and interest of the OIC Member States to convene four ministerial meetings since the first Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 2-4 October 2000. In this connection, **expresses its thanks** to the Government of Senegal for hosting the Fourth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Dakar, Senegal, on 28-30 March 2005, **welcomes** the initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Fifth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Baku on 9-12 September 2006 and **urges** the OIC Member States to actively participate in this Conference.

3. **Emphasizes** the importance of OIC Agreements and Statutes in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, and **underlines** that these Agreements and Statutes are specifically intended to promote economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States. In this connection, **renews its appeal** to those Member States, that had not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Agreements as early as possible, particularly the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among Member States of the OIC (TPSOIC) and the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for the TPSOIC (PRETAS) so as to facilitate the wider participation of Member States in the System.

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

4. **Takes note** the Report of SESRTCIC on the recent world economic developments and the implications for the OIC Member States, which has drawn the following salient conclusions;

- i. The average economic performance of the OIC countries, as a group, remained below that of the developing countries, as a group, which indicates a more vulnerability of the economies of the former group to the adverse external shocks such as the unpredictable fluctuations in international trade and the instability in financial flows ,
- ii. Agriculture and oil production are still the main productive economic activities in almost half of the OIC countries. The large share of such primary commodities in those countries' output and exports brings about a significant exposure of their economies to the risk of the fluctuating trends in international commodity prices and, thus, negatively affects their sustainable economic growth and long-term policy making ,
- iii. In order to decrease their vulnerability to the adverse shocks in the world economy, the OIC countries are recommended to further their efforts towards creating an enabling environment for sustainable development through the pursuit of more coherent and practical development strategies based on sectoral diversification and structural reforms with the active participation of the private sector,

5. **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)*

6 **Takes note** of the Report of SESRTCIC regarding the International Financial Architecture and its implications for the OIC Member States [(OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(5)], in the implementation of the Resolution No. 4/32-E adopted at the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Sana, Republic of Yemen, which has drawn the following salient conclusions:

- i. To balance the risks of the tightening up of the global liquidity and give positive signs to foreign investors, the OIC countries are recommended to accelerate the process of restructuring their economies and create an

overall enabling economic environment for well-functioning market economies,

- ii. To become more attentive to the recent financial standards which is recently developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS), the OIC countries are recommended to accelerate the process of restructuring their banking systems through developing higher supervisory and regulatory capacities,
- iii. The OIC countries are recommended to play a more active role in the whole process of restructuring the global financial architecture through getting more involved in the process of formulating and revising the international financial criteria and standards,
- iv. As an alternative means of using international funds, the OIC countries are recommended to realise more equity issuance through enhancing the efficiency of their stock exchanges, which is a less costly option compared to issuing bonds or receiving syndicated loans.

7. **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: 3.iv)

8. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 21st Meeting of the Follow up Committee.

9. **Takes note** the Report of the Follow up Committee (OIC/COMCEC-FC/21-05/REP) of COMCEC held on 10-12 May 2005.

10. **Endorses** the recommendations made by the Follow up Committee at its 21st Meeting.

(v) Review of Implementation of the Plan of Action (Agenda Item: 3.v)**a) Report by the OIC General Secretariat**

11. **Takes note** the Report entitled “Review of Implementation of the Plan of Action” [(OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(7))] submitted by the General Secretariat of the OIC and **requests** the OIC General Secretariat to continue submitting to the Annual Sessions of the COMCEC a periodical review on the implementation of the Plan of Action.

12. **Underlines** the importance of the implementation of the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Cooperation held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 6-7 May 2001 which was approved by the 17th Session of the COMCEC.

13. **Requests** the Member States that had already offered to host sectoral expert group meetings to expedite the convening of said meetings and also calls the Member States offering to host the expert group meetings (EGMs) may kindly do so by May 2006 after which dead live line, it could be open to other Member States willing to host the same meeting as decided by the COMCEC.

14. **Appeals** to Member States to come forward with proposals for hosting sectoral or inter-sectoral Expert Group Meetings in the priority areas of the Plan of Action, where no EGM has so far been held.

15. **Also takes note** of the presentations of the project proposals by the concerned institutions of the Republic of Turkey in the prescribed format of project profile and **urges** Member States, that were interested in these projects, and the coordinator OIC Institutions to expedite the formation of the project committees, as envisaged in the Plan of Action.

16. **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), and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) in future experts group meetings.

17. **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.

18. **Takes note** of the outcome of the OIC Economic Conference and **urges** all concerned parties to take necessary action for its actual implementation.

(vi) Promotion of Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 3.vi)

19. **Takes note** the Report submitted jointly by SESRTCIC and ICDT on the Developments in the Promotion of Cooperation among the “Stock Exchanges of the OIC Member Countries” (OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(8)).

20. **Expresses its appreciation** that the Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE), in collaboration with the relevant OIC institutions, organized a round table meeting on “Promotion of Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the OIC Countries”, in Istanbul, in March 2005, with the participation of stock exchanges from 11 OIC Member Countries and several OIC institutions.

21. **Notes** the decision of the round table meeting that the cooperation among the stock exchanges of OIC countries shall continue under the platform called “Islamic Stock Exchanges Forum”, which will be led by ISE and **calls upon** the stock exchanges of Member States to pool their efforts in terms of cooperation in this regard in the “Islamic Stock Exchanges Forum”, and invite them to actively join the Forum.

22. **Also Notes** that Islamic Stock Exchanges Forum shall meet twice annually, once in Istanbul and the other in another member state. **Also noted** that holding of two meetings in a year may not be feasible which should be re-examined by Islamic Stock Exchanges Forum from its practicability point of view.

23. **Request** the Istanbul Stock Exchange to follow-up, in collaboration with the SESRTCIC, ICDT and IDB, the developments on the subject and report to the next Session of the COMCEC.

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

24. **Takes Note** the reports submitted by IDB and ICDT on the expansion of intra-OIC trade (OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(10) and (OIC/COMCEC/21-05/D(4).

25. **Welcomes** IDB's effort to set up the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation, the new autonomous trade financing entity of the IDB Group, which will have an authorized capital of US\$3.0 billion and a subscribed capital of US\$500 million and **calls upon** Member States to support its establishment and business activities by transferring its shares in Export Financing Scheme (EFS) to the new institution i.e. International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation.

26. **Notes with satisfaction** 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 \$6.69 billion in favour of intra-OIC trade from 1420H/1425H (1999-2005) constituting 76% of its approved trade financing operations totaling an amount of US \$8.82 billion.

27. **Notes** the parallel efforts of IDB to increase intra-OIC trade through financing trade-related projects and technical assistance; and further **urges** Member States to accede to the programs of ICIEC and to other schemes designed to boost intra-OIC trade.

28. **Welcomes** the efforts of IDB to mobilize a total amount of US\$2.12 billion through Two Step Murabaha (2SMF) and syndication mechanisms since 1420H (1999) with about US\$546 million having been mobilized in 1425H (2004- 2005) alone under the two mechanisms, of which US\$421 million was raised from other Islamic banks and financial institutions for the purpose of financing intra trade among OIC/IDB Member States.

29. **Notes** the approvals made by IDB amounting to US\$2.72 billion in 1425H (2004-2005) and US\$23.02 billion during the period 1397H to 1425H under the four trade financing schemes.

30. **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.

31. **Takes note with appreciation** that the intra-OIC trade recorded positive results since the share of intra-OIC trade in the overall trade of the OIC Member States has shown a positive evolution rising from 12.8% in 2002 to 13.5% in 2003, and the value of this trade reached approximately 77 billion US dollars in 2003, as indicated in the ICDT's 2005 Annual Report.

32. **Requests** Member States to provide on a regular basis ICDT with data relating to trade and investment statistics and regulations.

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

34. **Takes note** of the recommendations made at the OIC Trade Forum held in Malaysia on 20-21 June 2005 and **calls upon** IDB and ICDT to follow-up on the recommendations made.

35. **Requests** IDB to continue provision of technical assistance for capacity building of the focal points in Member States.

36. **Entrusts** IDB and ICDT to follow up the expansion of intra-OIC trade and report to the COMCEC and to other OIC fora.

III. Report of the Trade Negotiating Committee for Establishing Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 5)

37. **Notes with satisfaction** that the First Round of Trade Negotiations under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Islamic Countries (TPSOIC) held in Antalya, the Republic of Turkey, from April 2004 to April 2005, was successfully concluded with the preparation of the draft Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS).

38. **Expresses its thanks and appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for successfully hosting and chairing the first round of trade negotiations under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Islamic Countries held in Antalya, from April 2004 to April 2005.

39. **Also thanks** the Republic of Turkey for hosting a Special Session of the Trade Negotiating Committee on the sidelines of the 21st COMCEC in order to finalize the PRETAS for signature at the Ministerial Session of 21st COMCEC.

40. **Expresses its satisfaction** to the COMCEC Coordination Office and the ICDT for fulfilling, in an excellent manner, their task as the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating Committee under the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the Islamic Countries.

41. **Notes** that the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) contributed to the financing of the First Round of the Trade Negotiations as well as the Special Session of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) that was held on the sidelines of the 21st Session of COMCEC **and encourages** IDB to continue to support future rounds of trade negotiations.

42. **Adopts** the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS), agreed upon in the special session of the Trade Negotiating Committee, held concurrently with the 21st Session of COMCEC on November 23rd, 2005, in Istanbul, as the outcome of the first round of trade negotiations.

43. **Welcomes** the decision by the Trade Negotiating Committee to launch the second round of trade negotiations under the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member Countries (TPS-OIC), in 2006, with a view to complement the PRETAS with annexes, which are necessary to implement it.

44. **Calls upon** the Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the “Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of OIC” and to accede to the PRETAS.

45. **Calls upon** the Members of the Trade Negotiating Committee to expedite the signing and ratification processes of the PRETAS with a view to implementing it as soon as possible.

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

46. **Welcomes** the full membership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO, which was approved by the WTO on 11 November 2005.

47. **Notes** the monitoring reports on the World Trade Organization (WTO) activities and prepared by IDB (OIC/COMCEC/20-04/D(15) and ICDT. (OIC/COMCEC/20-04/D(16)

48. **Urges** the OIC Member States to participate actively in the 6th Ministerial Conference of WTO (Hong Kong 13-18 December 2005) by submitting a positive agenda for the issues of high interest for and implication on their economies, especially, those relating the Agriculture including cotton, industrial products, services as well as the other issues.

49. **Commends** the IDB for organizing a seminar on 29-30 March 2005 on “The State of Play in the Current WTO Negotiations on Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access: Challenges and Opportunities for the OIC Member Countries”, and a Workshop on 31 January-3 February 2005 on WTO accession for the CIS countries. **thanks** the IDB for organizing an expert-level meeting on trade facilitation, in September 2005, with a view of assisting the OIC member participants on various dimensions of the WTO's mandate vis-à-vis the trade facilitation negotiations. **Also thanks** the IDB for organizing in June 2005, the consultative meeting for the OIC Member Countries' Permanent Missions in Geneva, with a view to discussing the state of play in different negotiation tracks before the WTO General Council Meeting in July 2005.

50. **Takes note** that IDB is planning to organize a Ministerial consultative meeting for OIC member countries on the eve of the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, on 12 December 2005 to exchange views and deliberate on the latest developments in the Doha Work Programme and the likely outcome of the Conference, and explore how best to enhance their cooperation on issues related to the WTO and **urges** the OIC member countries to attend the above mentioned consultative meeting.

51. **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.

52. **Expresses** their concern over the slow pace of negotiations on the access to goods and services markets and states that the OIC member states in the course of accession are subjected to excessive demands.

53. **Appeals** to WTO members that OIC Member States that the acceding to the WTO should not be submitted to obligations and commitments that are not aimed at in multilateral trade agreements (especially those called WTO-plus obligations) and the provisions of the special and differential treatment should automatically be enforced on OIC Member States, acceding to WTO Members, and the accession procedure should be simplified.

54. **Noting** that the WTO ministerial conference is to be held shortly, and whereas Palestine has requested to participate in the deliberations of the WTO Ministerial Conference as an observer, the 21st session of COMCEC **calls upon** the member states to support and endorse Palestine's request to participate in the deliberations of the WTO Ministerial Conference as an observer It also **calls upon** them to support Palestine to accede to the observer-status membership of WTO.

55. **Entrusted** IDB and ICDT to monitor matters relating to WTO activities as well as to render technical assistance to Member States particularly on issues of trade in services and trade facilitation and to report there on to the annual session of the COMCEC and other concerned OIC fora.

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

56. **Notes** the efforts made by ICCI to organize annual Private Sector Meetings, prior to the annual COMCEC sessions and calls for their continuation.

57. **Takes note** of the reports presented by the representative of the Islamic Chamber, on the 11th Private Sector Meeting held in Bahrain from 5-7 February 2005, the First Businesswomen Forum held in the Emirates of Sharjah, on 1-3 March, 2005 and the 1st World Islamic Forum held in Malaysia from 1-3 October 2005, **also notes** the efforts of the Islamic Chamber in pursuing activities for the promotion of the private sector and **conveys its thanks** to the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce, the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce

and the Asian Strategic Leadership Institute (ASLI) of Malaysia, and the IDB for their support in organising the respective meetings.

58. **Takes Note** of the recommendations of the World Islamic Economic Forum, which focuses on the need for sustainable economic development as a means to promote the prosperity of the OIC Countries. In this context, the Forum set up three task forces, one, to establish a private sector sponsored World Economic Corporation, two, to set up a World Islamic Businesswomen Network and third, a World Islamic Education Trust.

59. **Underlines** the importance of the holding such wide-based Forums, as an effective mechanism to have a greater interaction between the public/private sector, the academicians, NGO's and **calls for** the follow up of the recommendations of the Forum.

60. **Calls upon** the related OIC Institutions, the IDB, NGOs the UN Agencies and the National Chambers of Commerce to extend all support to the initiatives of the ICCI related to the development of the private sector.

61. **Calls upon** the ICCI to continue with its efforts for greater interaction between the private sector of the OIC countries and the Muslim Communities from non-OIC Countries, by organizing relevant meetings, and also **calls upon** the ICCI to continue to submit these reports and recommendations therein to the COMCEC for consideration.

62. **Takes Note** that Islamic Chamber will organize: (1) The 1st Forum of Tourism in Islamic Countries, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 17-19 April 2006 (2) The First Global Islamic Trading Conference and Exhibition, in State of Kuwait from 9-11 April 2006 (3) the 2nd Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries, in Malaysia, in the third quarter 2006 the 3rd Forum for Businesswomen in Qatar in 2007 and (4) The 3rd International Conference on Investment and Privatization in OIC, Countries in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in 2006, and **calls upon** the OIC Member States to encourage their relevant private sector and Chambers of Commerce to actively participate in the said events.

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

63. **Expresses its thanks and appreciation** to the Kingdom of Bahrain for hosting, and ICDT for jointly organizing with the Kingdom of Bahrain the 10th Trade Fair of Islamic Countries, from 5th to 9th February 2005, under the theme of “Role of the Private Sector in the Economic Integration between the Islamic Countries”, with an exhibition area of 14,000 sqm, deals settled around 50 million Bahraini Dinars (about 130 million US \$).

64. **Recalls** the offers of the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Guinea to host the 11th, 12th and 13th of Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries in 2007, 2008 and 2010 respectively.

65. **Expresses its thanks and appreciation** to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the First Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries, under the theme “OIC Tourism: A Meeting Point of Peace and Tolerance”, jointly organized by ICDT, TURSAB and CNR, in Istanbul from 24-26 November 2005.

66. **Takes Note** that the 2nd and 3rd Tourism Fairs of Islamic Countries will be hosted in Lebanon and Egypt in 2007, 2009 respectively and **welcomes** the offer of Syria to host the 4th Tourism Fair of Islamic Countries.

67. **Thanks** the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria for hosting the 1st Agribusiness Exhibition of the OIC Countries under the theme “The Agribusiness sector: partnership model among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference” jointly organized with ICDT from 17th to 20th April 2005.

68. **Requests** ICDT to prepare regularly a progress report on the Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries as well as the Tourism Fairs and submit them to the COMCEC Sessions, and the related OIC fora.

VII. Exchange of Views on “Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among the OIC Member States ” (Agenda Item: 9)

69. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and to ICDT, in collaboration with IDB, SESRTCIC and ICCI for organizing successfully the Workshop on the “the Role of Tourism in economic cooperation among the OIC

Member States” in Casablanca on 14th and 15th June 2005, **endorses** the recommendations of the workshop, and **calls upon** OIC Member States to endeavour to implement them. (Annexed herewith.)

70. **Thanks** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the presentation on the tourism development.

71. **Thanks** the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the Expert Group Meeting on Tourism in July 2005 and **endorses** the recommendations of the said EGM.

VIII. Evaluation and the Follow-Up of the Outcome of the OIC Economic Conference (Agenda Item: 10)

72. **Takes note** the presentation of the COMCEC Coordination Office on the Evaluation and Follow-Up of the Outcome of the OIC Economic Conference.

73. **Notes** the initiative of the IDB Group to launch the Technical Assistance Programme for the promotion of investment.

74. **Notes with appreciation** the holding of meetings by the IDB on promotion of intra-OIC investment in October 2005 on the occasion of the World Islamic Economic Forum in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, and the Ninth International Business Forum in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

75. **Calls on** the Member States and the concerned OIC Institutions to continue to follow-up the outcome of the OIC Economic Conference, and **requests** the concerned OIC Institutions to report on the developments of the subject to the forthcoming Sessions of the COMCEC.

IX. Capacity Building Programme for Poverty Alleviation in OIC Member States (Agenda Item: 11)

76. **Welcomes** Malaysia’s recent initiative of establishing a Capacity Building Program in the OIC Countries for poverty alleviation in less developed and low-income OIC Countries, and launching the first phase of the program, which consists of three

pilot projects, in March, 2005, in Kuala Lumpur, and **calls upon** the Member States to extend all support to the program.

77. **Takes note** of the eight capacity building programmes offered by Malaysia to OIC countries for implementation in 2006 in the area of trade, investment, SME, trade facilitation, development of women entrepreneur, productivity and standards and **urges** member countries to participate in the programmes.

78. **Expresses its thanks and appreciation** to the Government of Burkina Faso, the OIC General Secretariat, IDB and ICDT, for successfully organizing in Ouagadougou on 18-19 April 2005 a forum on Energizing Trade and Investment in Cotton Sector in Africa and **calls** for the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forum.

79. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Second Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Cotton Producing and Processing Industry” in Izmir, in March 2006 and **urges** Member States and concerned OIC institutions to participate in this meeting.

80. **Entrusts** IDB to monitor matters regarding the Capacity Building Program in the OIC Countries and report on them to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and other concerned OIC fora and **notes** IDB’s continuous efforts in this regard.

X. Report of the Sessional Committee

81. **Takes note** of the Report of the Sessional Committee (OIC/COMCEC/SC-05/REP) and **approves** the recommendations contained therein.

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

XI. Organizational Matters

83. **Decides** that the Twenty Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee be held from 23 to 25 May 2006 and the Twenty Second Session of the COMCEC be held from 13 to 16 November 2006, in Istanbul.

84. **Decides** that “Capacity Building on Facilitation of Trade and Investment” be the theme for the exchange of Views at the Twenty Second Session of the COMCEC, and **requests** IDB to organize a workshop on this topic in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat and any other international organization, prior to the Twenty Second Session of the COMCEC and submit its report to the Session.

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

86. **Requests** the Follow-up Committee, at its Twenty Second Meeting, to draw up the draft agenda of the Twenty Second Session of the COMCEC **and recommends** alternative themes on which exchange of views would take place during the subsequent COMCEC sessions.

87. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to communicate to Member States the dates of the Twenty Second Session of the COMCEC and the Twenty Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

