

REPORT OF THE
7th MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON
ENHANCING INTRA-OIC TRADE

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I. BACKGROUND:

In the context of the implementation of the resolutions relating to Economic Cooperation of the 3rd Extraordinary Summit of the OIC, particularly, the Declaration of Makkah Al Mukarramah, the Final Communiqué and the Ten-Year Programme of Action to meet the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st century;

And in compliance with the outcomes of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Consultative Group for Enhancing intra-OIC trade, held respectively in Casablanca and Marrakesh from 2009 to 2014 in particular the “*Executive Programme of the Road-MAP for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets*”;

And In compliance with resolutions n° 3- ii/ of the 26th session of the COMCEC, which requested the OIC Institutions to carry out their activities according to the Executive Program and the IDB to provide necessary financial contribution for the achievement of the activities and projects included in the Executive Program and **urged** the Member States to give the required support to the OIC Institutions for the implementation of the Executive Program and to actively participate in those activities.

In the context of the follow-up of the implementation of the “Executive Programme of the Road-MAP for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets” adopted by the “Consultative Group on enhancing Intra-OIC Trade”, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), member of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, organised the “7th Meeting of the Consultative Group on enhancing Intra-OIC Trade” in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco on 2nd and 3rd March 2015.

The meeting focused on the assessment of the Executive Programme for enhancing intra-OIC Trade (2009-2014). A side event was held on the roles of the OIC Institutions in the implementation of the Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) (2005-2015) with regards to enhancing intra-OIC trade and the COMCEC’s strategy.

PARTICIPANTS:

The meeting was attended by the following Institutions:

- ✓ The General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (Department of Economic affairs);
- ✓ The COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO);
- ✓ The Islamic Development Bank Group (IDBG);
 - The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC);*
 - The Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investments and Export Credit (ICIEC)*
 - The Islamic Cooperation for Development of Private Sector (ICD);*
 - The Cooperation and Integration Department of IDB (CID);*
 - The Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI);*
 - The Regional Office of IDB Group in Rabat;*
- ✓ The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT);
- ✓ The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC);

- ✓ The Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC) and
- ✓ The United Nations Development Programme (New York Office).

(List of participants)

OPENING CEREMONY:

After the recitation of Verses from the Holy Quran, H.E. Mr. Mohamed ABBOU, Minister-Delegate to the Minister of Industry, Trade, Investment and the Digital Economy, in Charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco delivered the opening speech in which he highlighted the importance of coordination and harmonization among the OIC Institutions in order to boost Intra-OIC Trade within the framework of the new OIC TYPOA and the COMCEC's Strategy relating to the regional integrated projects. On the other hand, he called on the OIC Member States to speed up the implementation procedures of the TPS/OIC within the framework of the new TYPOA in collaboration with the OIC Institutions and the Private Sector.

Then, H.E. Amb. Hameed OPELOYERU, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs of the OIC General Secretariat read out the Message of H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen MADANI, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in which he underlined the importance of organising such events in a bid to enhance intra-OIC trade laying stress on the need for fostering OIC inter-agency coordination with a view to implementing cross-border and sub regional projects and Global Business Forums in collaboration with the private sector.

Afterwards, H.E. Eng. Hani SONBOL, the Acting CEO of ICIEC took the floor pointing out that the IDB Group gives a great importance to the work of the Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade. He also underscored the different challenges facing this Group in the implementation of the current TYPOA, which should be met in order to achieve its objectives. In this respect he highlighted the Budgets allocated by the IDB Institutions to develop intra-OIC Trade in recent years. Likewise he proposed the creation of a Trade Coordination Group to facilitate the coordination of activities among the Group.

Besides, Mr. Selcuk KOC, Director at the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) read out the statement of H.E. Mr. Metin Mehmet EKER, Director General of the CCO commending the efforts of the OIC Institutions towards reaching the intra-OIC Trade targets by 20% in 2015, then he put emphasis on the serious impediments facing many of OIC Countries, such as the diversification of products, high trade transactions costs, red tape etc... In this regard he recommended to the OIC Member States to improve their trade structures and capacity.

Finally, H.E. Dr. El Hassane HZAINI, Director General of ICDT delivered his opening speech stressing the importance of holding this meeting in collaboration with ITFC in pursuance of the various resolutions of the OIC and CCO Meetings. He outlined the findings of the activities of the Group along with the assessment of the Executive Programme for Enhancing intra-OIC Trade. In this context he informed the Group that the ICDT has already drawn up its Ten Year Plan of Action 2016/2025, which will be submitted to its Board of Directors and General assembly. The aforesaid programme contains activities relating to trade promotion, trade facilitation, capacity building, trade negotiations under the TPS/OIC and sector based studies on products and services with high trade potential.

DELIBERATIONS:

After the opening session, participants examined in plenary sessions the following agenda items:

Working Session I: Assessment of the Executive Programme

1. Outcomes of the OIC Consultative Group activities and the study on the assessment of Executive Programme : ICDT
2. Comments of the OIC Institutions: OICGS, COMCEC, ITFC, ICIEC, ICD, CID, IRTI, SESRIC and SMIC

Sideline event: General presentations on the roles of the OIC Institutions in the implementation of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA 2005-2015) with regards to enhancing intra-OIC Trade and the COMCEC's Strategy:

1. Outcomes of the Implementation of the COMCEC's Strategy.
2. General presentation of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA 2016-2025).

Working Session II: General debate on enhancing coordination between the OIC Institutions

RECOMMENDATIONS:

After fruitful deliberations, the participants agreed on the following:

a) Assessment of the Executive Programme

- Commend the work conducted by ICDT, ITFC and the Consultant for compiling a very useful report despite the time and funding;
- Request the OIC Institutions to provide their comments, missing and/or additional data or feedback if any within 3 weeks (end of March 2015);
- Ask the Consultant to take into account the different and independent mandates of the various OIC Institutions when preparing the final report;
- Recommend to add a section relating to each business line in the assessment report provided that relevant data is available;
- Recalling the relevant resolution of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, request ICDT to submit a comprehensive evaluation report on the implementation of the road map to the 31st follow-up Committee Meeting and the 31st session of the COMCEC;
- Strengthen consultation and inter-agency coordination among the OIC Institutions with a view to creating more cohesion and synergy.

b) General discussion on enhancing coordination between the OIC Institutions

- Design common Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for monitoring and measuring the impact of the activities conducted under the executive programme;
- Encourage the investment for trade initiatives in parallel with trade promotional activities;
- Include Investment Promotion and Trade Finance Agencies in the OIC Global Network of TPOs with a view to enhancing the involvement of Member States and the Private Sector;
- Encourage the launching of a new generation of regional integrated sector-based projects involving relevant OIC Institutions on a regular basis;

- Encourage OIC Institutions to better use the existing funding mechanisms;
- Revisit the guiding principles for cooperation adopted by the 2nd OIC Consultative Group Meeting in 2010 for future cooperation between the OIC Institutions.

MOTION OF THANKS:

At the end of this Meeting, participants requested H.E. Mr. Mohamed ABBOU, Minister of Industry, Trade, Investment and Digital Economy in Charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco to convey to His Majesty Mohamed the Sixth, King of Morocco, their high esteem and profound gratitude as well as to the Moroccan Government and people for the warm hospitality and facilities that were extended to them since their arrival to the beautiful city of Casablanca.

Participants also conveyed their deepest thanks to H.E. Dr. Iyad Ameen MADANI, the Secretary General of the OIC, for the important message that His Excellency addressed to participants and for his sustained efforts to achieve the goals set by the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference.

Participants have also extended their deep gratitude to HE Dr. Ahmed Mohamed ALI, President of IDB Group for his full support to this initiative and readiness to accompany actively the projects undertaken by the OIC Consultative Group in line with the development of economic cooperation and regional integration.

Lastly, the delegates congratulated also, H.E. Dr. Waleed AL WOHAIB, the Chief Executive Officer of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and the Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and their staff for the efforts they have made to provide the best conditions, which ensured the success of this Meeting.

Done in Casablanca on 3rd March 2015