



**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
FORUM OF
INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES OF THE OIC
MEMBER STATES
PRESENTED BY
THE ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF TRADE
TO THE
33rd SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL CO-OPERATION OF THE OIC (COMCEC)**

**Istanbul – Republic of Turkey
20th – 23rd November 2017**



REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORUM OF INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES (IPAs) OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES

**RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
24 MAY 2016**

1. The Forum on Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) of the OIC Member States was held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 24 May 2016.
2. A total of 82 participants from 18 OIC countries and 7 OIC institutions attended the Forum. Foremost among the attendees were Cabinet Ministers from Sudan and Maldives as well as Chief Executive Officers and High-level Representatives from Investment Promotion Agencies of Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Egypt and Senegal, Turkey, Azerbaijan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, among others. (The full list of participants is attached to this Report).

Proceedings of the Forum:

1. While inaugurating the Forum, H.E. Mr. Mohammed Rashed Al-Zahrani, Supervisor, Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority and Head of the Saudi Arabian delegation welcomed all the participants and called on delegates to seize the auspicious occasion to develop coordination and cooperation mechanism among the Investment Promotion Agencies.
2. In a speech delivered on his behalf by Ambassador Hameed A. Opeloyeru, Assistant Secretary General (Economic Affairs), H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation underscored the importance accorded by OIC to promotion of intra-OIC investments and emphasised the need for the creation of a regular mechanism for consultation among the investment promotion agencies of the OIC Member States. (Copy of the Secretary General's Speech is annexed to this Report)

Working Sessions:

3. The proceedings of the Forum were conducted through the two Working Sessions under the following agenda items, namely: (1) Foreign Direct Investment; (2) International Outlook on FDI and Ease of Doing Business; (3) Intra-OIC Investment: Current Issues and Challenges; (4) Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship; (5) Implementation of the Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the Member States of the OIC; (6) The Mediation and Arbitration Mechanism to settle the Financial Disputes within OIC countries; (7) Sharing of National Experiences; (8) and Modalities for Creating of a Forum for Investment Agencies (copies of all presentations are annexed to this Report).
4. Delegates made several presentations of the investment opportunities in their respective countries, shared best practices on their investment promotion efforts and expressed their

keen interest in strengthening greater collaboration among Investment Promotion Agencies of OIC member states on a sustainable basis.

5. Participants also emphasized the pivotal role played by the Investment Promotion Agencies in promoting intra-OIC investment, implementing the investment related goals of the “OIC-2025: Program of Action”, and of giving new momentum to cooperation amongst themselves and with the institutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation working in the field of Investment. The participants also stressed the utmost importance of supporting the active involvement of the private sector in boosting economic and investment cooperation between OIC Member States.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

6. At the end of the presentations and general debate, the Forum agreed to:

- i. Create a regular mechanism for consultation among the Investment promotion Agencies of the Member States of the OIC to review the common challenges and opportunities on investment issues. In this regard, participants recommended the holding of similar forums for OIC Investment Promotion Agencies every two years, on the margin of the OIC Islamic Trade Fair or at any other venue as may be deemed appropriate;
- ii. Organize annual regional investment forums in key OIC regions with a view to attracting more foreign direct investment to such regions. Accordingly, the Forum took note of the OIC Investment Forum for Central Asia scheduled for Uzbekistan on 15-16 October 2016;
- iii. Elaborate an OIC Investment Cooperation Framework or Programme of Action document with a view to boosting intra-OIC FDI flows with concrete actions and time-lines;
- iv. Ensure a speedy implementation of the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among Member States of the OIC, while urging member states, which have not done so, to sign and ratify the Agreement. In this regard, the Forum requests the OIC General Secretariat to consult widely with members of the Forum on the interpretation of Articles 16&17 of the said Agreement;
- v. Increase Investment Promotion Agencies’ effectiveness as a one-stop-shop on investment issues for foreign investors in OIC countries;
- vi. Urge ICIEC and other relevant OIC institutions to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to OIC member states in the area of investment promotion and attraction;
- vii. Explore modalities for conclusion by OIC Member States of bilateral, multilateral and regional investment agreements and treaties of a mutually beneficial nature to facilitate capital flows and boost intra-OIC and foreign investment and to prevent the negative impact of often-conflicting national investment policies;
- viii. Create a permanent body for the purpose of arbitration of investment disputes among investors or corporate bodies operating in OIC member states;
- ix. Develop capacity building, research and development, knowledge economy, technology and innovation and experience-sharing programmes to be implemented through and effective networking among the national IPAs in the OIC Member States;
- x. Provide technical assistance and capacity building to OIC IPAs, and to provide technical assistance for creating IPAs in OIC Member States that do not have such agencies;
- xi. Develop databases on investment in the OIC countries, including information on investment opportunities and potential investors for the development of conducive business environment. In this regard, the Forum requested the relevant OIC institution to

create an OIC Investment Database/Online Portal in order to provide information on investment opportunities in OIC Member States;

- xii.** Optimize Islamic finance and micro-finance products and deepen understanding on the use of Islamic Social Finance for investment purposes;
- xiii.** Mainstream the role of the Private Sector for social entrepreneurship and infrastructure development;
- xiv.** Develop Public-Private Partnership for infrastructure projects;
- xv.** Requests the OIC General Secretariat to coordinate and present a progress report on the implementation of these recommendations to the Second OIC IPAs Forum which will be held on the margin of 16th OIC Trade Fair;

Vote of thanks:

- 7. The participants expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the various presenters, the OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions for their contributions to the success of the Forum.

Issued in Riyadh, 24 May 2016