



PRESS RELEASE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY

**THE 38TH MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC
COOPERATION (COMCEC)**

The 38th Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 28 – 29 November 2022, in Istanbul, Turkiye.

The Opening Ceremony was officiated by His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of the Republic of Turkiye, and was attended by Member Countries and observer countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as well as OIC-related institutions including the Islamic Development Bank Group; the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries; the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries.

Under the theme *“Effective Social Assistance Provision and Socioeconomic Empowerment in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic”*, the two-day session discussed ways to alleviate poverty in OIC Member Countries and also considered challenges to delivering social assistance post-pandemic as well as possible policy options to address such challenges. Discussions also focused on the progress of the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and the OIC-2025 Programme of Action.

Brunei Darussalam’s delegation was led by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II. In his remarks, Yang Berhormat Dato Dr. acknowledged that social assistance and other poverty alleviation efforts are a vital part of the response to the pandemic

to help communities buffer against the worst of socioeconomic consequences and in ensuring that no one is left behind. Comprehensive and coordinated policy responses in areas such as education, health care and housing assistance will help the most vulnerable members of society and those in genuine need overcome the impacts of the pandemic. Yang Berhormat Dato Dr. also shared Brunei Darussalam's efforts to strengthen its social protection system such as through the National Plan of Action on Poverty Eradication (2020 – 2024) and the digitalisation of the National Welfare System.

The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by a Senior Official Meeting which was attended by Yang Mulia Dr. Hajah May Fa'ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy, Trade and Industry) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy and officers from the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Also attending the Ministerial Meeting was His Excellency Mohammad Shafiee bin Haji Kassim, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Turkiye.

Istanbul, Republic of Turkiye, Tuesday, 5 Jamadilawal 1444 / 29 November 2022