Tehran Rules of Procedure

of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform,

adopted by the 2nd Ministerial Meeting

Date: May 18-20, 2025

Venue: Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Background

The OIC-15 Dialogue Platform was conceived by the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2017 as a forum where the representatives of member countries leading in science, technology and innovation may deliberate upon the major scientific and technological challenges being faced by the OIC member states and suggest practical measures and strategies to overcome these challenges.

The idea of the platform was endorsed at the 46th and 47th sessions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

A Brainstorming meeting of various OIC institutions was held in 2019 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, that defined the objectives, structure and working of the OIC-15 platform.

Finally, the Abu Dhabi Declaration, as the outcome of the 2nd OIC Summit on Science and Technology (16th June 2021), supported inter alia the Government of Kazakhstan's proposal to hold the first meeting of the OIC-15 group in 2022, and entrusted OIC-GS and COMSTECH to prepare for it.

The 1st Ministerial Meeting was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, during which Tehran, IR Iran was nominated and elected as the host of the 2nd Ministerial Meeting.

Definition of OIC-15

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OIC-15 Dialogue Platform is a consultative forum to organize the scientific resources of its participating members with strong credentials in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to help in promoting an enabling ecosystem for the advancement of STI and the technical capacities of OIC members in STI.

Objectives of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform

1. To serve as an interface between political commitments of the leadership and the scientific communities of the OIC member countries.

2. To discuss STI issues, that are relevant for OIC members, and to suggest their practical measures for solutions.

3. To identify systemic problems and to develop recommendations and solutions to the challenges faced by OIC member countries on STI.

4. To help fostering strategic STI partnership among the participating countries, and OIC member countries with international partners.

5. To facilitate any multilateral, bilateral or unilateral STI initiatives of participating countries, that can enhance the human and institutional capacities of OIC member countries in STI, in accordance with the OIC objectives.

6. To complement and support the ongoing programs and activities of the OIC General Secretariat and COMSTECH, and other relevant institutions, for the fulfilment of the mandate, given to them by successive Islamic Summits, meetings of Council of Foreign Ministers, and other Ministerial meetings.

7. To help the Member States, lagging behind in STI, as per the accepted science and technology performance indicators, to achieve the targets, set by OIC STI Agenda 2026 and OIC 2025: Plan of Action for the advancement of science, technology and related fields, through the promotion of intra-OIC cooperation.

8. To help the member states, lagging behind in STI, by identifying their deficiencies, based on comparisons of the internationally accepted

science and technology performance indicators, and to seek solutions for these deficiencies under the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform.

Science and Technology Performance Indicators to serve as basis for membership of OIC-15

(Approved at the Brainstorming Session held at Almaty in 2019)

I.   Level of scientific development of a country (Ranking in the Global innovation index);

II. Percent share of GDP allocated to the development of science and innovation (GERD);

III. Total number of scientific publications over preceding 10 years period;

IV. Total number of applications filed for patents and trademarks;

V.   High-technology exports as percent of manufactured exports;

VI. Percentage of graduates from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics programs in tertiary education.

Terms of Reference

of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform

a. The OIC-15 Dialogue Platform will be an advisory and consultative mechanism, which will create no binding obligations on part of the participating member states.

b. The membership of OIC-15 Dialogue Platform will be updated every four years by the OIC-15 Secretariat (COMSTECH) in consultation with the OIC-GS Secretariat, based on the already agreed parameters for STI assessment of member states (Annexure 1).

c. The OIC-15 Dialogue Platform will also provide political support and assistance in the implementation of the OIC STI Agenda 2026 and encourage OIC member states to work more actively with COMSTECH.

d. Any OIC-15 member country may initiate and submit proposals to COMSTECH/OIC-GS for the consideration of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform.

e. COMSTECH may constitute Technical Committees of experts in specialized areas of science and technology, to assist it in assessing the need, viability, and resources, required for implementing specific proposals and initiatives.

f. The agenda of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform may, inter alia, include support for multilateral collaborative projects, recommended by the Technical Committees through COMSTECH, or as proposed by any OIC-15 member.

g. The OIC-15 Dialogue Platform may accept, recommend modifications, or reject the initiatives, recommended to it. In case of acceptance, the Platform will identify the willing partner countries for partnership in executing the collective projects, and their partnerships will be coordinated through COMSTECH and OIC General Secretariat.

Working Procedures
of OIC-15 Dialogue Platform

1. OIC-15 Dialogue Platform will hold regular meetings, at least once in a year, both at the level of senior officials and concerned Ministers, hosted by its member states on rotation basis.

2. During a meeting of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform, members will elect a Chairman amongst themselves to steer the proceedings of the meeting, in accordance with the OIC Rules of Procedure.

3. The recommendations made during a meeting of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform will be referred to COMSTECH and the OIC General Secretariat for their follow-up.

4. COMSTECH Secretariat will act as the Secretariat for the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform. Along with the OIC General Secretariat and the hosting member country, COMSTECH will organize meetings of the Platform and its Expert Groups.

5. COMSTECH will also maintain the record of the meetings, follow up the implementation of the decisions made, and present an Annual Report each year at one of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform meetings, and to the General Assembly of COMSTECH.

6. Any member of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform may submit, through COMSTECH/ OIC-GS, a program or initiative for consideration of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform. If so approved by the meeting, the presenter member country would act as the lead country for its implementation. and may choose as partners other member countries, with their willingness. The partner countries would themselves decide on their human and material contributions to the agreed collaborative initiatives.

7. The performance indicators for the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform could be the number and the quality of bilateral or multilateral initiatives that are recommended and facilitated through this Platform, relating to economic betterment and capacity development in new and leading technologies.

8. COMSTECH may constitute Technical Committees for its assistance in different key areas, comprising experts in relevant fields, as recommended by OIC-15 members. The respective Technical Committees would review the projects and activities proposed by members and provide advice and recommendations on the same to the Dialogue Platform, through COMSTECH.

9. Relevant scientific and higher education institutions of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform member states will assist COMSTECH Secretariat in selection of the Experts.

10. Meetings of Technical Committees could be held as and when required by COMSTECH.

11. The Technical Committees may also identify priority actions and targets for collaborative research, and for technology development and innovation to address collective economic, technological, and societal challenges. The Committees will also identify the human and material resources, required for these collaborative efforts, while the partnering states will share the resources involved.

12. The projects and actions, recommended by the Technical Committees, will be presented to the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform through COMSTECH and OIC General Secretariat. The OIC-15 members will decide on their acceptance, modification or rejection, and on any suggestions for financial mechanisms.

13. The Members of the Technical Committee could be granted honorarium for their services, as may be decided at the Ministerial meeting of the OIC-15

Dialogue Platform. Additionally, member states may nominate or second their experts to serve on the Technical Committees.

COMSTECH Technical Committees for OIC-15 Dialogue Platform

Rationale

The concept of Technical Committees was approved at the 1st Senior Officials Meeting of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform held on 1-2 December 2022 (vide *Agenda Item IV*, sub items 8-13). Details of the process of selection of the Experts for the Technical Committees as well as their responsibilities and functions may be seen in the Outcome Document as referenced above. The main task of the Technical Committees would be the evaluation and assessment of the technical and logistic requirements and feasibility of any proposals received from OIC-15 Dialogue Platform member countries or COMSTECH, and to recommend implementation strategies.

Priority Areas and Composition of Technical Committees:

- It is proposed to keep the number and composition of such Technical Committees relatively small, to be able to achieve more rapid communication and scheduling of meetings.

- As such interrelated areas have been grouped together into five Technical Committees, as follows:

  a. New Technologies and their related Innovation: (Artificial Intelligence and IT, Biotechnology, Nanoscience, Genetic Engineering) (8 to 12 members)

  b. Health and Medicine: (4 members)

  c. Food Security, Water, Climate Change and Environmental Challenges: (6 to 8 members)

  d. Human Capital Development/Education: Basic, Higher, Technical and Vocational Skill Development: (6 to 9 members)

e. Technology Incubation, Acceleration and Commercialization (for example, Incubation Centers, Science Parks, etc.): (3 to 4 members)

f. A Technical Committee may form Subgroups from any of these major groups, if so required. For each subgroup within a Technical Committee, 2 to 3 members may be needed.

Tasks of the Technical Committee:

• The respective Technical Committees would review the projects and activities, proposed by the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform member states, and provide through COMSTECH, advice and recommendations on the same to the Dialogue Platform.

• The Technical Committees may also identify priority actions and targets for collaborative research, technology development and innovation to address collective economic, technological and societal challenges. The Committees will also identify the human and material resources required for these collaborative efforts, while the partnering states will share the resources involved.

• Meetings of Technical Committees (In-Person or Online) could be held as and when required by COMSTECH.

• COMSTECH will draft general guideline materials for the selection, adoption of an initiative, which will be followed by all the Committees.

Funding for Technical Committees:

Rationale:

As decided at the Senior Officials Meeting, the Members of the Technical Committee could be granted honorarium for their services, as may be decided

Funding required:

It is recommended that a total amount of US$150,000/- per year may be contributed collectively by OIC-15 member states, which would include the payment of honoraria to the Experts for their consultations, assessment reports, for travel support to Experts, if any is required. This suggested amount includes honoraria required to be paid to members of all five Technical Committees, as well as payments to COMSTECH for organizational expenses.

- COMSTECH may also utilize part of this financial support for holding physical meetings of Experts as and when they are strongly needed.
- Each member of the Dialogue Platform will be requested to contribute at least US$10,000/- per annum, on a voluntary basis, to enable this financial support for the Technical Committees and COMSTECH.
- COMSTECH and OIC GS can explore other sources of collaborative funding.
- COMSTECH will present audited report of the incurred expenses to the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform once a year.