

## The Director General of SESRIC Addressed the International Forum on “Politics and New Paradigms in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”



H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, the Director General of SESRIC, addressed the international forum on “Politics and New Paradigms in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” at the main panel titled “Crises of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the Future of Politics”, which was moderated by the Deputy Chairman of the Justice and Development Party of Türkiye Prof. Numan Kurtulmuş. Mr. Dabur’s address focused on the current and future potentials and challenges facing the Islamic world as represented by the 57 countries that comprise the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, “the OIC”. He highlighted the unique assets that the OIC block has in achieving development and the wellbeing of its people and in assuming an influential role in shaping global politics such as: youth population, energy and natural resources, and strategic geographical location. Mr. Dabur pointed out that despite its huge potential, the OIC block has not translated this potential into the desired levels of development and effective role at the international arena. He explained that according to SESRIC analysis multiple causes have contributed to this situation, but, among those causes the conflict and security landscape stands as the main obstacle preventing the OIC block from achieving its potential.

Mr. DABUR mentioned that the number of conflicts in OIC countries is showing an upward trend and currently the majority of conflicts in the world are taking place in OIC countries with devastating consequences on human life, society and the economy. He underlined that to meet the challenge of achieving peace and security, the OIC block needs to focus on conflict preventive diplomacy by identifying and eliminating the root causes, thus transform a system that encourages conflict to a system the promotes peace, security, human rights and inclusive development. In this context, Mr. Dabur summarised the efforts of SESRIC in supporting this mission through: conducting research focused on the changes in the OIC security environment and the resulting new challenges, mostly related to preventing, managing and resolving conflicts; strengthening the mediation capacity of the OIC by developing a Mediators Guideline Focusing on Culturally Sensitive Mediation Approaches; and training hundreds of junior diplomats from the OIC block in areas of interest to the OIC diplomatic community such as mediation, conflict resolution and humanitarian diplomacy.

Mr. DABUR concluded his address by expressing his deep admiration for Türkiye under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for establishing a new approach in politics and diplomacy that is rooted in morality, justice and human values. With this new approach, he underscored that, Türkiye has been spearheading the challenge to the unjust international order; has become a leader

### STATISTICS

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SESRIC continues updating its OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which serves as the primary online statistical source for users all over the world who are interested in data and information ...

### RESEARCH

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SESRIC has launched the 2022 edition of the OIC Economic Outlook report during the 38th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, which was held on 26-29 November 2022 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye ...

### TRAINING

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The Centre organizes capacity building training activities under 19 different sector-specific capacity building programmes. Various modalities are being utilized while implementing ...

in promoting harmony and enhancing greater understanding among diverse world civilizations; has risen to the ranks of a major peacemaker mediating in hot spots all around the world bringing peace to where there is conflict; and has emerged as a major international humanitarian aid donor. Mr. Dabur pointed out that Türkiye under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan gives the people of this region and the entire world a glimmer of hope and a promise of salvation.

Sponsored by the Justice and Development Party of Türkiye, the international forum on “Politics and New Paradigms in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” attracted attendees from all over the world with the objective of contributing to the understanding of contemporary politics, increasing our ability to foresee the future and developing new theories and strategies.

## Director General of SESRIC, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR Addressed the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum as Lead Speaker



In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye organized and hosted the 4th Meeting of the Forum on 25-26 September 2022 in Istanbul, Türkiye. The meeting brought together Governors and High-level Senior Officials from the Central Banks of OIC Member Countries to discuss the current global and OIC economic outlook and to exchange views on promoting cooperation among OIC countries within the framework of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) financial cooperation agenda.

H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC, addressed the Forum as a lead speaker and shared with the participants an overview of the economic and financial outlook of OIC countries, mostly with highlights from the Centre's forthcoming research report, titled “OIC Economic Outlook 2022”. Noting that most macroeconomic indicators deteriorated significantly all over the world in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. DABUR underlined that the world entered a recovery phase in the year 2021, which witnessed a rebound from the unprecedented crisis. He stated that, with the resumption of economic activities, the global economic growth was estimated at 6.1% in 2021 after a contraction of 3.1% in 2020. This rebound was supported by a strong recovery in both developed and developing countries, he added.

Emphasizing the global impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war, Mr. DABUR stressed that, despite the remarkable recovery in 2021, the global economic outlook remained highly fragile and uncertain amid the war, which was compounding the damage from the COVID-19 pandemic by exacerbating supply-side shocks, disrupting international commodity markets, and driving inflation to unprecedented heights across the world. In this context, Mr. DABUR drew attention to the recent downward revisions in global economic growth forecasts for the 2022 and 2023 made by many international organisations such as the IMF, World Bank, and OECD.

In this regard, Mr. DABUR highlighted the heightening risks that weigh on the global economic and financial outlook. These included the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic, disruptions caused by the Russia-Ukraine war, removal of policy accommodation around the world in response to inflationary pressures and rising interest rates, and high food and energy prices. He pointed out that, while many OIC countries were already struggling to “return to normal” after two years into the pandemic, these new challenges would make it even harder to get back on track, if not further worsen. Also, noting the growing trend in geopolitical risks and the threat of conflicts, Mr. DABUR concluded by emphasizing the importance of strengthening resilience to future shocks and expressed his aspiration that the Forum would be highly instrumental in promoting and enhancing cooperation among the OIC countries.



On the session titled “Workshop Deliverables”, Mr. DABUR also summarized the outcomes of the Workshop on “Best Practices on Promoting Financial Literacy and Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries” which was organized by SESRIC and held on the sidelines of the Forum in cooperation with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye. The Workshop was the last activity of SESRIC project titled “Strengthening Financial Literacy and Promoting Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries”, which is funded by the COMCEC under the

9<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, and implemented in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye, Bank Indonesia and Financial Services Authority of Indonesia. Mr. DABUR also presented the List of Recommendations that was discussed and agreed upon during the Workshop by the attending delegates as an outcome document towards assisting the OIC Member Countries in their efforts towards strengthening Financial Literacy and promoting Islamic Finance.

## The Director General of SESRIC, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR Addressed the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers



The 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (ICYSM) was held under the theme of “Development of Youth and Sports for a Solidarity-Based Ummah” on 07-09 September 2022 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Conference was attended by the Ministers of Youth and Sports, high-level policy makers and experts from the OIC Member States, OIC institutions as well as relevant international and regional organizations. SESRIC was represented by H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General, thereat.

The Conference provided the OIC Member States and institutions with an important opportunity to discuss the state of youth in the OIC Member States; review the progress made towards the implementation of the “OIC Youth Strategy”; and exchange ideas on how to enhance the intra-OIC cooperation to advance the socio-economic wellbeing of the youth.

H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR addressed the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the Conference on 07 September 2022 and apprised the participants of the activities and programmes of the Centre in the domain of youth under its three mandated areas of statistics, research and training. In his statement, Mr. DABUR particularly highlighted the activities undertaken by the Centre towards the implementation of the “OIC Youth Strategy” and the relevant resolutions of the 4<sup>th</sup> ICYSM held in 2018.

During the SOM, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR also launched and presented the main findings of SESRIC’s regular report on ‘State of Youth in the OIC Member States

2022’, which has been prepared jointly with the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF). The report serves as the main technical background document for the Ministerial Session and provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of youth in the OIC Member States with a view to identify key challenges faced by them, understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the development of youth, highlight best practices, and present a set of policy recommendations to improve the wellbeing of the youth in the post-pandemic period.

During his presentation, Mr. DABUR highlighted that many OIC Member States have made noteworthy progress in improving the state of their youth in key areas of development like improving literacy rates and reducing adolescent fertility rates. However, he added, the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed decades of human development around the world, particularly amongst vulnerable and disadvantaged populations including youth as many of them experienced increased difficulties in access to basic services from education to health and developed high-level of stress and anxiety due to uncertainties the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. DABUR further stressed the importance of spearheading intra-OIC cooperation that has the potential to support the post-pandemic recovery efforts through the exchange of knowledge and best practices among the Member States.

The 5<sup>th</sup> ICYSM was concluded with the adoption of the Resolutions and a Declaration on youth development with a view to spearheading the intra-OIC cooperation towards the implementation of the OIC Youth Strategy.

## STATISTICS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



### OIC STATISTICS (OICSTAT) DATABASE

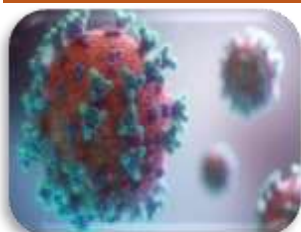


SESRIC continues updating its OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which serves as the primary online statistical source for users all over the world who are interested in data and information about OIC countries.

In the period from July to December 2022, 217 new indicators were added in the OICStat Database which increased the number of total indicators hosted at OICStat to 1,729 under 27 categories dating back to 1970.

The OICStat Database can be accessed on <https://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>

### SESRIC COVID-19 PANDEMIC DATABASE FOR OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES



SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database ([https://www.sesric.org/sesric\\_covid\\_19.php](https://www.sesric.org/sesric_covid_19.php)) provides statistics and visualized data on COVID-19 pandemic and

vaccinations in OIC Member Countries with the objective of raising public awareness and offering policy makers with a tool to guide their ongoing efforts in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Updated on a periodical basis, the COVID-19 Pandemic Database of SESRIC hosts data concerning COVID-19 related cases, deaths, people vaccinated, and people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in the OIC Member Countries.

### ROSTER OF STATISTICS EXPERTS



The Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE) serves for hosting the profiles of professionals that work in the official statistics sector or in other sectors that carry out statistical services. ROSE currently contains the professional profiles of more than 882 statistics experts of the OIC Member Countries. Between July - December 2022, 7 new experts registered in the Roster. The ROSE is accessible through: <https://www.sesric.org/rose.php>

### STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

#### Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries 2022

The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC took note with appreciation of the Report of SESRIC that identified eight prioritised SDGs (SDGs 1-5, 8-9, and 13) and requested SESRIC to prepare an annual report on the progress at the OIC level towards achieving the eight prioritized SDGs to be submitted to the Ministerial Sessions of the COMCEC. SESRIC launched the said Progress Report during the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of COMCEC on 26-29 November 2022.

This Report presents an overview of the progress towards the eight prioritised SDGs (SDGs 1-5, 8-9, and 13) and other nine SDGs (SDGs 6-7, 10-12, and 14-17). The Report reveals that the OIC countries, as a group, are estimated not to be able to meet any of the SDGs by 2030 if they continue with the current pace of progress.



The Report highlights that the achievement of SDGs may become more challenging with the continuing impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and escalating conflicts, which will push the OIC countries group further off track towards the achievement of the SDGs. This Report is accessible through <https://www.sesric.org/publications-detail.php?id=559>



# Road to 2025: Gains, Challenges and Opportunities – Mid-Term Review of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action



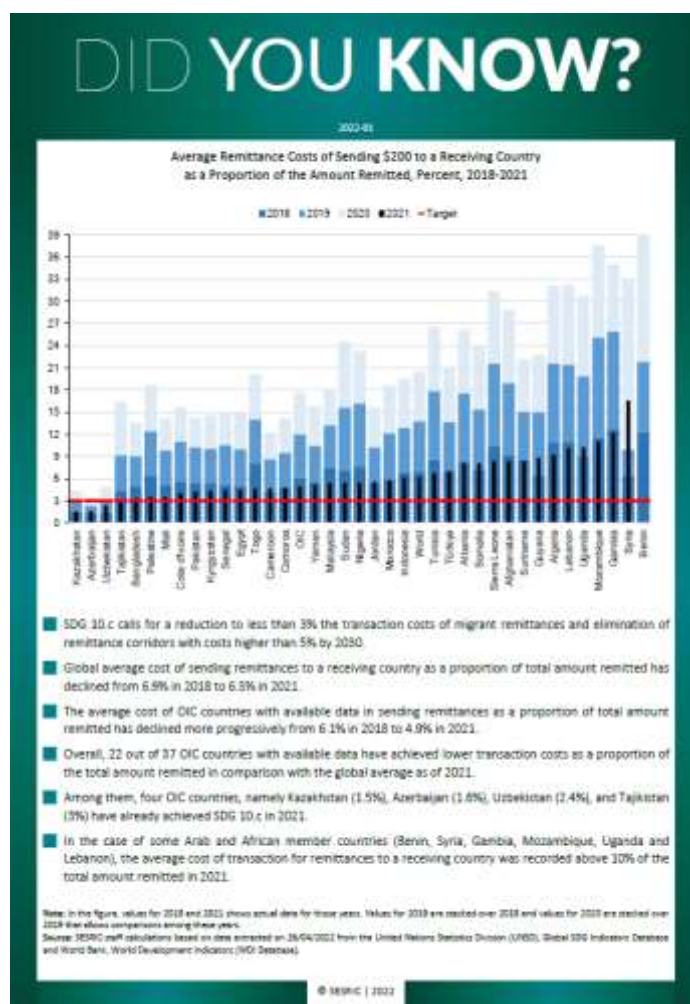
In accordance with the request received from the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC has updated the “Road to 2025: Gains, Challenges and Opportunities – Mid-Term Review of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action” based on responses to the Questionnaire for the Mid-Term Review of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action by the

National Statistical Offices of 30 OIC Member States, recent available data extracted from the databases of the international organisations, and the information provided by the OIC institutions.

This Report takes stock of the progress and assesses the impact of the OIC's programmes and activities towards the realization of the 107 goals under the 18 priority areas stipulated in the OIC-2025 Programme of Action document. This Report also suggests ways and means for accelerating the process in the remaining years until 2025.

## DID YOU KNOW (DYK) MODULES

### Average Remittance Cost of Sending \$200 to a Receiving Country as a Proportion of the Amount Remitted



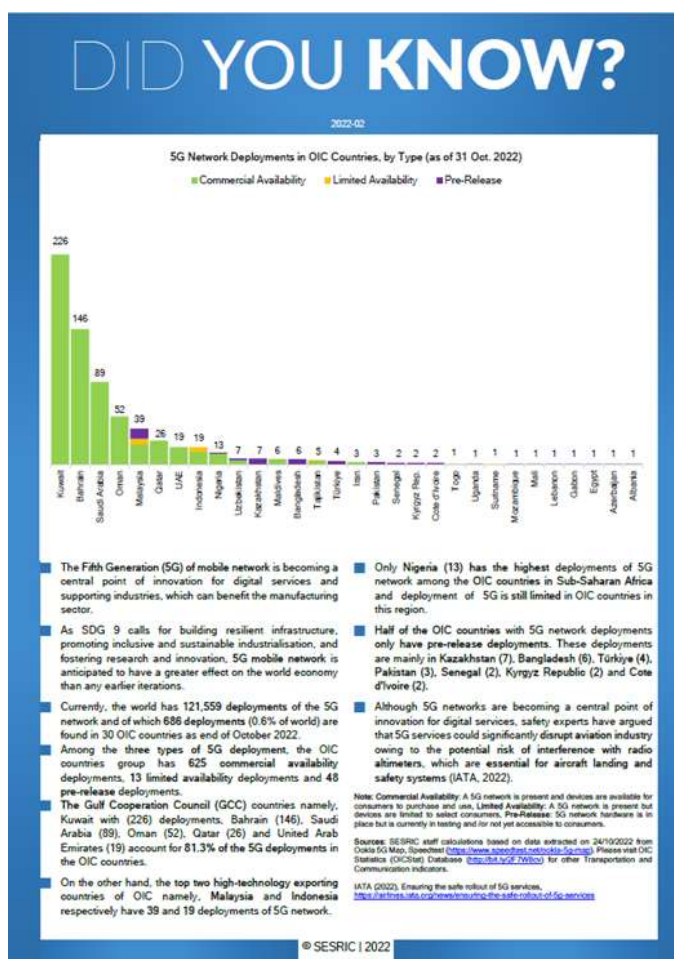
This DYK presents the trends in the average cost of sending remittances to a receiving country as a proportion of total amount remitted in OIC countries.

The study sheds light on the current progress of the OIC countries group towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.c that calls for reducing remittance transaction costs to under 3% of the amount sent and eliminating remittance corridors with costs higher than 5% across all regions and countries by 2030.

This DYK presents that:

- Global average cost of sending remittances to a receiving country as a proportion of total amount remitted has declined from 6.9% in 2018 to 6.3% in 2021.
- The average cost of OIC countries with available data in sending remittances as a proportion of total amount remitted has declined more progressively from 6.1% in 2018 to 4.9% in 2021.
- Four OIC countries, namely Kazakhstan (1.5%), Azerbaijan (1.6%), Uzbekistan (2.4%), and Tajikistan (3%) have already achieved SDG 10.c in 2021.
- On the other hand, the average cost of transaction for remittances to a receiving country was recorded above 10% of the total amount remitted in 2021 in some Arab and African member countries (Benin, Syria, Gambia, Mozambique, Uganda and Lebanon).

## 5G Network Deployments in OIC Countries



This DYK presents the Fifth Generation (5G) of mobile network deployments in OIC countries as of 31 October 2022. As SDG 9 calls for building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and fostering research and innovation, 5G mobile network is anticipated to have a greater effect on the world economy than any earlier iterations.

This DYK presents that:

- Currently, the world has 121,559 deployments of the 5G network and of which 686 deployments (0.6% of world) are found in 30 OIC countries as end of October 2022.
- Among the three types of 5G deployment, the OIC countries group has 625 commercial availability deployments, 13 limited availability deployments and 48 pre-release deployments.
- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries namely, Kuwait with (226) deployments, Bahrain (146), Saudi Arabia (89), Oman (52), Qatar (26) and United Arab Emirates (19) account for 81.3% of the 5G deployments in the OIC countries.
- Only Nigeria (13) has the highest deployments of 5G network among the OIC countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and deployment of 5G is still limited in OIC countries in this region.

DYKs on “Average Remittance Cost of Sending \$200 to a Receiving Country as a Proportion of the Amount Remitted” and “5G Network Deployments in OIC Countries” are accessible through:

<https://www.oicstatcom.org/didyouknow.php>

## SESRIC STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING (STATCAB) PROGRAMME



Between July and December 2022, the following 10 statistical activities were organised under the SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

- Training Course on 'Conducting a Census Based on Administrative Records' on 4-5 July 2022
- Training Course on 'Transport Statistics' on 26-28 July 2022
- Training Course on 'Sustainable Tourism Indicators' on 12-14 September 2022
- Training Course on 'International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments' on 13-15 September 2022
- Experience Sharing Programme on 'Statistical Onboarding and Capacity Building for NSO Officials' on 15 September 2022
- Training Course on 'Usage of Administrative Registries in Producing Demographic and Social Statistics' on 19-20 September 2022
- Training Course on 'Usage of Administrative Registries in Producing Economic Statistics' on 26-28 September 2022



- Training Course on 'Price Statistics' on 10-12 October 2022
- Training Course on 'SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) Indicators' on 1-3 November 2022
- Training Course on 'Banking, Insurance and Financial Statistics' on 14-16 November 2022

Facilitated by SESRIC, these activities have been provided by 6 OIC member countries and benefitted by 44 OIC member countries.

More details about the SESRIC StatCaB Programme and the abovementioned activities can be accessed on:

<https://www.oicstatcom.org/statcab.php>

The following are impressions from the StatCaB activities organised by SESRIC in the period July – December 2022.



Training Course on 'Conducting a Census Based on Administrative Records', 4-5 July 2022



Training Course on 'Transport Statistics', 26-28 July 2022



Training Course on 'Sustainable Tourism Indicators', 12-14 September 2022



Training Course on 'International Trade Statistics', 13-15 September 2022



Experience Sharing Programme on 'Statistical Onboarding and Capacity Building for NSO Officials', 15 September 2022



Training Course on 'Usage of Administrative Registries in Producing Demographic and Social Statistics', 19-20 September 2022



Training Course on 'Usage of Administrative Registries in Producing Economic Statistics', 26-28 September 2022



Training Course on 'Price Statistics', 10-12 October 2022



Training Course on 'SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) Indicators', 1-3 November 2022



Training Course on 'Banking, Insurance and Financial Statistics', 14-16 November 2022

## SESRIC STATISTICAL EXPERIENCE SHARING WEBINAR SERIES

Between July and December 2022, SESRIC organised the following 2 webinars within the framework of its Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar Series (<https://www.oicstatcom.org/webinar-series.php>):

- Webinar on '2020 Round of Population & Housing Censuses: Census Editing & Validation' on 7 September 2022
- Webinar on 'Implementation of National Quality Assurance Framework for Official Statistics' on 8 November 2022

The following are impressions from the webinars organised by SESRIC in the July – December 2022 period.



Webinar on '2020 Round of Population & Housing Censuses: Census Editing & Validation', 7 September 2022



Webinar on 'Implementation of National Quality Assurance Framework for Official Statistics', 8 November 2022

## 11<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION (OIC-STATCOM)

SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), organised the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC-StatCom in a hybrid format at its Headquarters in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye, on 18-19 October 2022 in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group. The Session brought together 96 participants from the National Statistical Offices of 39 OIC countries.

The Session has been also attended by representatives of 10 international and regional organisations, namely the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat), Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).





11<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom  
SESRIC HQs, 18-19 October 2022

The 11<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom commenced with the addresses of Mr. Ramzi CHANNOUF (on behalf of H.E. Mr. Adnen LASSOUED, Director General of Statistics Tunisia), Central Director of Business Statistics at Statistics Tunisia, in its capacity Chairman of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom; H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC; Mr. Jakhongir KHASANOV, Representative of the OIC General Secretariat; and Mr. Hammad Zafar HUNDAL, Representative of the IsDB Group.

Following-up the welcoming remarks and opening addresses, the composition of the Bureau Members of the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom, as agreed on during the [Follow-up Meeting of the 10th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission](#) organised on 17 February 2022, was announced by H.E. Mr. DABUR, Director General of SESRIC. For the 11<sup>th</sup> Session, Pakistan was elected as the Chair; Cameroon, Palestine, and Qatar were elected as the Vice Chairs, and SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Commission, as the Rapporteur.

After the opening remarks by H.E. Dr. Naeem Uz ZAFAR, Chief Statistician of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) and Chairman of the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom, the working sessions started with the two presentations made by SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Commission, on: (1) the implementation of the Resolutions of the 10th Session of the OIC-StatCom; and (2) the implementation of the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action for 2021-2025.

During the working sessions, the participants discussed and deliberated on presentations made by the member countries and relevant international organisations on the following technical agenda topics:

- Transforming Population and Housing Censuses to Mitigate Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic
- Monitoring and Reporting SDG 9 Indicators Related to Industry, Manufacturing, and Infrastructure
- Monitoring and Reporting SDG 9 Indicators Related to Research, Scientific Development, and Innovation
- Introduction of the MEDSTAT V Programme

At the end of the Session, the OIC-StatCom adopted a number of resolutions concerning its future work under each agenda item.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=2637>

## COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### Global Network of Institutes for Statistical Training (GIST)

SESRIC participated in two Task Team Meetings of GIST on 'Addressing NSO Needs' held on 1 September and 2 November 2022. In these meetings, SESRIC contributed to the discussion concerning its experience in conducting Biennial Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) questionnaire to assess the needs and capacities of NSOs of OIC member countries, match these needs and capacities, and organise statistical capacity development activities between the beneficiary and provider countries.

GIST is a network of international and regional training institutions, working together build sustainable statistical capacities through efficient, effective, and harmonized delivery of training. SESRIC is one of the founding members of GIST established in April 2018.

### Regional Workshop on the “Changing Role of Official Statistics in the State of Qatar: Why Data Culture Matters”



Regional Workshop on the “Changing Role of Official Statistics in the State of Qatar: Why Data Culture Matters”  
Doha, 21-22 September 2022

SESRIC participated in the Regional Workshop on the “Changing Role of Official Statistics in the State of Qatar: Why Data Culture Matters” organised by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) of Qatar in partnership with Qatar Charity, Qatar Computing Research Institute, and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA) on 21-22 September 2022 in Doha, Qatar. The Workshop was attended by representatives of national, regional and international experts.

The Regional Workshop was organised with the objective to shed light on addressing a solid data ecosystem to accelerate the emerging data and information needs to create prosperity and well-being for the society as well as to deepen a robust data-driven culture for decision-making processes in support of the national development strategies and to underline the importance of national partnership in the production, dissemination and use of statistics and data for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation.

In the session with the theme “Modernising Statistical Ecosystem”, Dr. Atilla KARAMAN, Director of Statistics and Information Department of SESRIC made a presentation titled “Efforts in Modernising Statistical Legislations and Coordination within National Statistical Systems: A Regional Perspective” focusing on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, Coordination within the National Statistical Systems, Modernising Statistical Legislations, and Efforts of SESRIC in Building the Capacities of NSOs of OIC Member Countries within the framework of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030 and Programme of Action for 2021-2025.

The Workshop provided a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices on the changing role of official statistics in the case of Qatar and its implications on the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Development Strategy of State of Qatar as well as for acquiring a clear vision on the importance of data governance, data stewardship and data strategy.

## International Task Force on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)



18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Task Force on TOSSD  
20, 25 and 27 October 2022

SESRIC attended the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the International Task Force on TOSSD which was organized online by the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 20, 25 and 27 October 2022 held on three separated days, and on 7-8 December 2022 in virtual formats respectively.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October 2022, members of the Task Force (TF) provided feedback on the best practices and lessons learnt, and raised their key questions on reporting under the agenda item; peer learning. The new version of the TORs of the future TOSSD governance entity was also reviewed. Other topics discussed included; data pilot on institutional investors in 2022, data validation mechanism, keywords, and update by the Secretariat on financing of the TOSSD framework.



The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting was held also virtually in December 2022 and discussed several topics. The TOSSD TF Secretariat updated the Members on the 2022 TOSSD data collection round on 2021 activities, and elaborated further on the governance of the TOSSD framework. Use of artificial intelligence in TOSSD data processing was also brought up by the Secretariat for discussion among others.

## Annual Meeting of Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity (TransMonEE)



Annual Meeting of TransMonEE  
Ankara, 1-2 November 2022

SESRIC participated in the Annual Meeting of Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity (TransMonEE) organized around the topic “TransMonEE: 30 Years of Monitoring Child Rights and Inequities, Taking Stock and Moving Towards Comprehensive Child Rights Monitoring”. The meeting was held in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye on 1-2 November 2022 and co-hosted by UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO) and Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).



The TransMonEE Meeting provided a platform for the representatives of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) as well as the line ministries from Europe and Central Asia to review the recently adopted “Guidance of the Conference of European Statisticians” for improving statistics on children including; children with disabilities, children in alternative care and statistics on violence against children, and take stock of the application of minimum child protection indicators in the region, and specifically explore good practices related to the generation of statistics on children in alternative care.

TransMonEE is a three-decade-old regional partnership initiative among the NSOs of Europe and Central Asia region. It aims to strengthen the coverage, quality, disaggregation, accessibility, and use of data on children, across a breadth of areas relevant to children's rights and wellbeing, aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Introductory Meeting with Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) on the TOSSD Framework



Meeting with PICA: Introducing the TOSSD Framework,  
12 November 2022

SESRIC facilitated the meeting between Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) and the TOSSD Task Force Secretariat which is hosted at the Development Co-operation Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with an aim to present PICA the TOSSD framework as a statistical measure and its relationship with SDG indicator 17.3.1. The meeting included the presentation of the Secretariat on the general framework of the TOSSD and data collection methodology as well as the discussion about the possible reporting of the South-South and/or Triangular co-operation activities of PICA to TOSSD.

The PICA, established by a presidential decree in January 2016, is the main public diplomacy tool of the State of Palestine and works as a national coordinator for South-South and North-South Cooperation.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCWA Committee on Technology for Development and 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCWA Statistical Committee



4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Technology for Development  
and 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Committee of UNESCWA  
Beirut, 14-17 November 2022

The SESRIC delegation headed by HE Mr. Nebil Dabur, Director General of SESRIC, participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Technology for Development and 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Committee, organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA) on 14-17 November 2022 in Beirut, Lebanon. The two Meetings were attended by the representatives of UNESCWA member countries, and regional and international organisations.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCWA Committee on Technology for Development on 14 and 15 November 2022 reviewed the progress in technology-related activities in the Arab States and of the UNESCWA Secretariat since its previous session on 15-16 February 2021.

During the Meeting, HE Mr. Nebil Dabur, Director General of SESRIC, briefed the Committee concerning the technology-related activities of the Centre since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session falling under its three mandated areas of statistics, research, and training.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Session also discussed opportunities and challenges associated with the Metaverse; project on enhancing the enabling environment for tech-driven entrepreneurship; use of technology and innovation for enhanced operations in Arab public institutions; and Arab States action programme on advancing digital cooperation and digital development in the next five years.

On 15-16 November 2022, a session titled “Data Management Modernization Using New Technologies” was held jointly by the Committee on Technology for Development and Statistical Committee of UNESCWA, with the objective to leverage technology to improve data management and respond to the ever-increasing demand for data and information on sustainable development issues.

Following these events, the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of UNESCWA Statistical Committee on 16-17 November 2022 reviewed the statistical activities in the Arab States and of the ESCWA Secretariat since its previous session on 10-11 February 2021, followed by the discussions to improve monitoring of progress in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development evolving production and use of purchasing power parities; and geospatial information in support of statistics for the 2030 Agenda. Dr. Atilla Karaman, Director of Statistics and Information Department of SESRIC, also briefed the UNESCWA Statistical Committee on the activities of the Centre for the benefit of common member countries since the 14<sup>th</sup> Session in February 2021.

### Second Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Mid-Term Review Document on OIC-2025 Programme of Action



Second Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting  
Jeddah, 22-24 November 2022

The Second Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on the Mid-Term Review Document (MTRD) on the Implementation of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action (PoA) was organised by the OIC General Secretariat in a hybrid format at its Headquarters in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 22 and 24 November 2022. The Meeting brought together the permanent representatives of OIC member countries and representatives of the relevant OIC institutions.

In the first Working Session on 22 November 2022, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC presented the main findings of the updated draft MTRD titled “Road to 2025: Gains, Challenges and Opportunities”, which has been prepared and led by SESRIC since 2019, in accordance with Resolution 1/46-POA on OIC-2025 PoA (paragraph 3) endorsed at the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in 2019, with the aim of assessing the progress of the OIC member countries towards achieving the 107 goals stipulated under the 18 priority areas of the OIC-2025 PoA. The draft updated Report provides analyses on selected major relevant statistical indicators concerning the priority areas of the OIC 2025 PoA.

The analyses were based on the data provided by 30 OIC member countries through the “Questionnaire for the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the OIC-2025 PoA” as well as from the databases of relevant international organisations. The draft updated Report also suggests ways and means for accelerating the implementation of OIC-2025 PoA in the remaining years until 2025.

In his remarks, the Director General of SESRIC highlighted the problems and challenges the Centre has encountered while updating the MTRD, including the subjective nature of almost all goals under the OIC-2025 PoA; with only few quantitative targets. H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur also underlined the lack of a pre-agreed indicator set and metadata together with the partial survey submissions by all the respondent member countries. After the remarks of the Director General of SESRIC, Dr. Atilla Karaman, Director of Statistics and Information Department of SESRIC, presented the progress between 2016 and 2021 (or most recent year available) of OIC member countries group based on the major selected indicators covered in the updated draft MTRD.

During the Working Sessions, the participants expressed their thanks to SESRIC for taking a lead role in updating the draft MTRD and provided their feedbacks concerning the entirety of the draft updated Document. The Meeting was concluded on 24 November 2022 with the adoption of the Report of the Meeting.

### Workshop on ‘Digitalization of Services in Investment Promotion of OIC Member Countries’

SESRIC participated in the Workshop on ‘Digitalization of Services in Investment Promotion of OIC Member Countries’ organised by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) on 19-20 December 2022 virtually. The Workshop was attended by the senior officials of the Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) of the OIC countries, relevant OIC institutions and international organisations.

The Regional Workshop was organised with the objective to enhance services’ digitalization in IPAs of OIC countries through sharing knowledge, country experiences, best practices and presenting the technical assistance of active leading international institutions including UNCTAD, WAIPA, SESRIC, IsDB and ICDT.

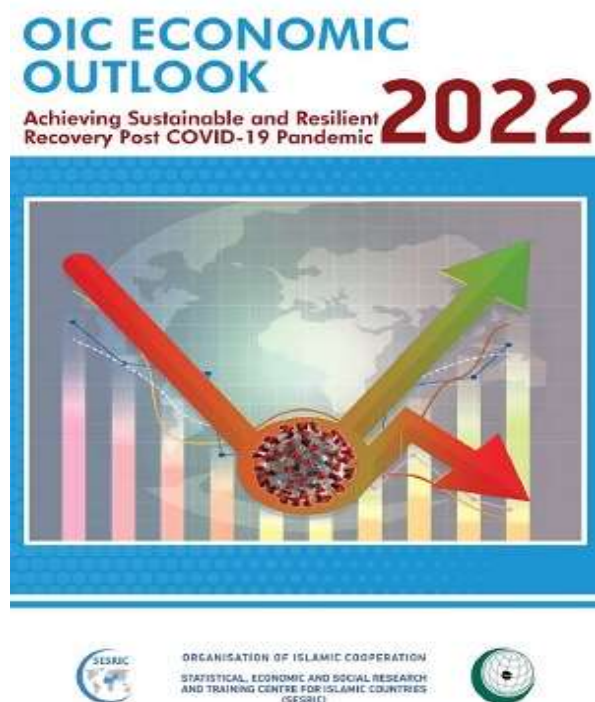
In the session titled “The Digital Future and How Digital Transformation Could Impact Trade & Investment?”, Dr. Atilla Karaman, Director of Statistics and Information Department of SESRIC, made a presentation on ‘Digital Transformation and Digital Skills in the OIC Countries’.



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



### OIC ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2022



SESRIC has launched the 2022 edition of the OIC Economic Outlook report during the 38<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, which was held on 26-29 November 2022 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye. The main highlights of the report were presented by H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, the Director General of SESRIC.

This flagship report of SESRIC explores global macroeconomic trends with a focus on the OIC countries as a group and provides a wide range of useful statistics and analyses, including the comparison of OIC countries' economic performance with the developed countries, the non-OIC developing countries, and the world average.

The current edition of the report highlights that most economic indicators improved in 2021 across the world, including the OIC countries because of the ongoing

Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the global economic outlook is highly fragile and uncertain amid the Russia-Ukraine war, which is compounding the damage from the pandemic by exacerbating supply-side shocks, disrupting international commodity markets and driving inflation to unprecedented heights across the world. Thus, despite recording a noticeable recovery in 2021, the global economy remained mired in concerns about the resurgence of the pandemic and disruptions caused by the Russia-Ukraine war.

After a contraction of 3.1% in 2020, global economic growth is estimated at 6.1% in 2021 supported by a strong recovery in both developed countries (5.2%) and developing countries (6.8%). However, since the Russia-Ukraine conflict is anticipated to have a substantial impact on the post-pandemic global economic recovery, international organisations such as the IMF, World Bank, and OECD have revised down their forecasts for global economic growth for 2022 and 2023. Global economic growth for 2022 has been marked down to 3.2% in the July 2022 IMF projections, 1.2 percentage points lower than previously projected in January. Likewise, the projection for 2023 has been revised down by 0.9 percentage points to 2.9%. The OIC countries, which contracted by 1.7% under the pandemic conditions in 2020, grew by 5.8% in 2021 in parallel with the global economic recovery. However, their economic growth is expected to moderate in the next two years, to 4.9% in 2022 and 4.2% in 2023.

The resumption of economic activity in the second year of the pandemic has narrowed the shortfall in working hours relative to the pre-pandemic situation from 8.6% in 2020 to 3.9% in 2021. Thus, the corresponding loss of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs declined from 250 million to 114 million. In the OIC countries, it is estimated that the pandemic caused a loss of 32.5 million FTE jobs in 2021,

down 37% from 51.5 million in 2020. The global unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage points to 6.2% in 2021, after peaking at 6.6% in 2020, while the OIC countries witnessed an unemployment rate further rising to 7.2%.

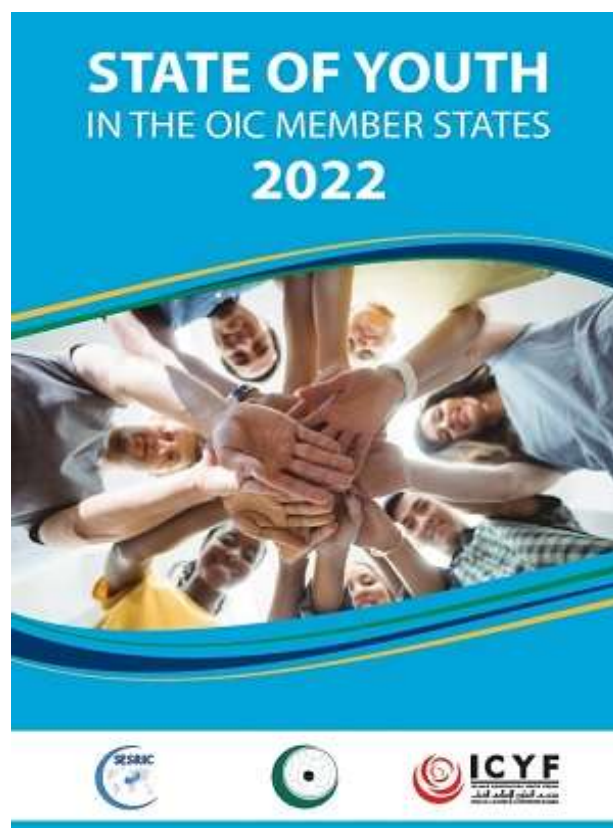
As the pandemic related restrictions were relaxed throughout 2021, the demand accelerated but supply was slower to respond amid ongoing disruptions in the global supply chains. Consequently, average commodity prices increased by 53.2% from their lower levels in the previous year, and they are expected to rise further in 2022 amid escalating geopolitical tensions and the war in Ukraine. Global inflation rose to 4.7% in 2021 after slowing down to 3.2% in 2020. Considering that war-related supply shortages are expected to greatly intensify rising inflationary pressures, inflation is projected for 2022 at as high as 6.6% in developed countries and 9.5% in developing countries, averaging globally at 8.3%. Inflation in the OIC countries further increased to 12.9% in 2021 after a sharp rise to 9.4% in 2020. It is projected to further rise to a record high of 17.7% in 2022.

Emphasising the growing trend of geopolitical risks and threat of conflicts as well as the challenges associated with climate change, the current edition of the report includes a special section titled “Achieving Sustainable and Resilient Recovery Post COVID-19 Pandemic”. This special section highlights a number of policy measures for strengthening economic resilience to future shocks under eight broad categories. Although these recommendations are not exhaustive and all-encompassing, they do provide possible directions in addressing economy-level vulnerabilities across the OIC countries.

## STATE OF YOUTH IN THE OIC MEMBER STATES 2022

SESRIC launched and presented its flagship report on “State of Youth in the OIC Member States 2022” during the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (ICYSM), which was held on 07-09 September 2022 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Prepared by SESRIC in partnership with the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), as mandated by the Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers held in Istanbul in October 2016, the report provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of youth and identifies key challenges faced by youth in the OIC Member States in four thematic areas, namely (i) education and skills development; (ii) employment and entrepreneurship; (iii) health and well-being; and (iv) social participation. The report also looks at how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the development of youth, highlights best practices from the OIC Member States, and draws a set of policy recommendations surrounding the pandemic response and recovery with a particular focus on young people.



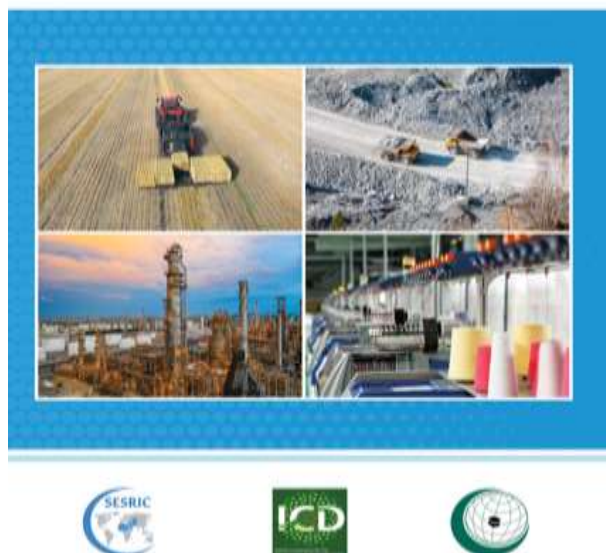
Among the major findings, the report shows that the OIC Member States have made noteworthy progress in improving the state of their youth in key areas of development like improving literacy rates and reducing adolescent fertility rates. Yet, many OIC Member States still are not able to realize the full potential of their young population due to a number of challenges ranging from youth's economic inactivity and limited social participation to concerns over health and wellbeing and education and skills development. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed decades of human development around the world, particularly amongst vulnerable and disadvantaged populations including youth. Youth living in the OIC Member States also could not stay immune from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of them experienced increased difficulties in access to basic services from education to health and developed high-level of stress and anxiety due to uncertainties.

The report further highlights that the OIC Member States host 350.8 million youth accounting for 18.5% of their total population and 29% of the world's total youth population as of 2022. The available forecasts predict that the OIC youth population will further increase to 471 million by 2050. In this context, the report presents a number of policy recommendations for the consideration of policymakers towards addressing growing needs of youth, providing required essential services for the development of youth, and unleashing their full socio-economic potential. The report also points out that the OIC Member States need to exert additional efforts, develop new policies and programmes, and reach out to more young people in their respective societies to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.



## INVESTMENT OUTLOOK IN THE OIC COUNTRIES

### INVESTMENT OUTLOOK IN THE OIC COUNTRIES

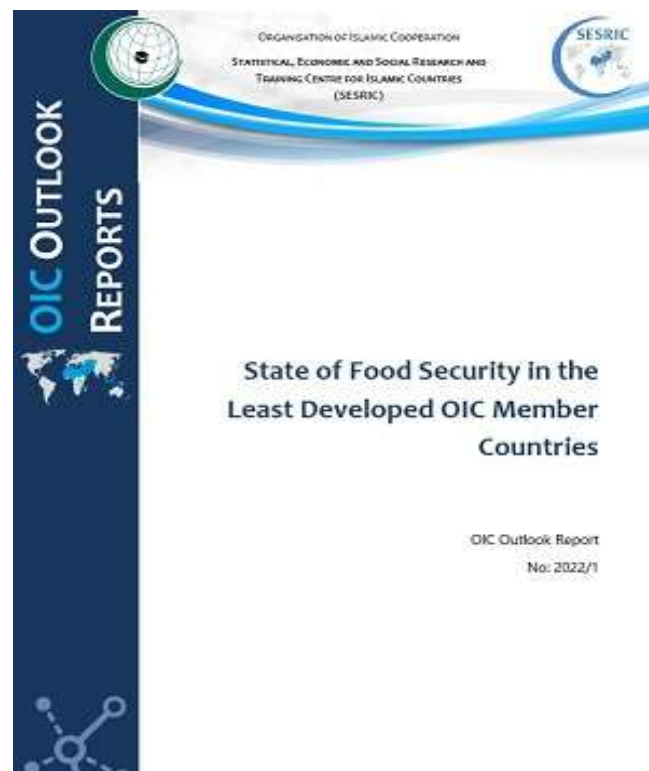


SESRIC and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), a member of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, jointly prepared this outlook report in line with the recommendations of the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (ICECS), which was held on 11-13 January 2022 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

This outlook report assesses and examines the investment performance and ecosystems in the OIC countries by highlighting the major issues and challenges along with the role and importance of investment funds for the financing of sustainable development. In particular, the report identifies available opportunities and priority sectors for investment in the OIC countries by providing a detailed sectoral analysis on agriculture and food, textiles and apparel, mining and construction, and petrochemicals with a view to providing some industry-level guidance to policymakers and potential investors.

The outlook report concludes with a set of policy recommendations for the OIC countries to address key barriers, diversifying investment, unleashing the potential of investment funds, and considering new investment modalities while developing effective policies to unleash the full potential of intra-OIC cooperation.

## STATE OF FOOD SECURITY IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES



This outlook report examines the food security situation in OIC member countries with a focus on issues and trends significant to the OIC Least Developed Countries (OIC-LDCs). Despite improvement, food security remained a persistent and elusive development challenge in the OIC group like elsewhere, notably as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent global crisis. The outlook for food security in 2022 is bleak with growing indications of rising food insecurity in many OIC countries, particularly among OIC-LDCs.

The vast majority of food security issues are related to the lingering effects of COVID-19, the economic downturn, conflicts and insecurity, and climate change. The solutions to this issue may include addressing the root causes of risks, safeguarding the most vulnerable populations, enhancing infrastructure, maintaining the openness of the agri-food trade, and implementing climate-smart agricultural practices.

## SESRIC PARTICIPATED IN THE ROUND TABLE ON 'POLICY GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES'

Organized on the side line of the Cairo Water Week 2022 held under the theme "Water at the Heart of Climate Action", SESRIC participated in the Round Table on "Policy Guidelines for Sustainable Water Management in Agriculture in OIC member countries" which was organized by the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).



Key representatives of governmental authorities of OIC member states that are involved in the development of policy frameworks and strategies in water management took part in the round table discussions in addition to representatives of international and regional organizations active in the domains of water, agriculture and food security.

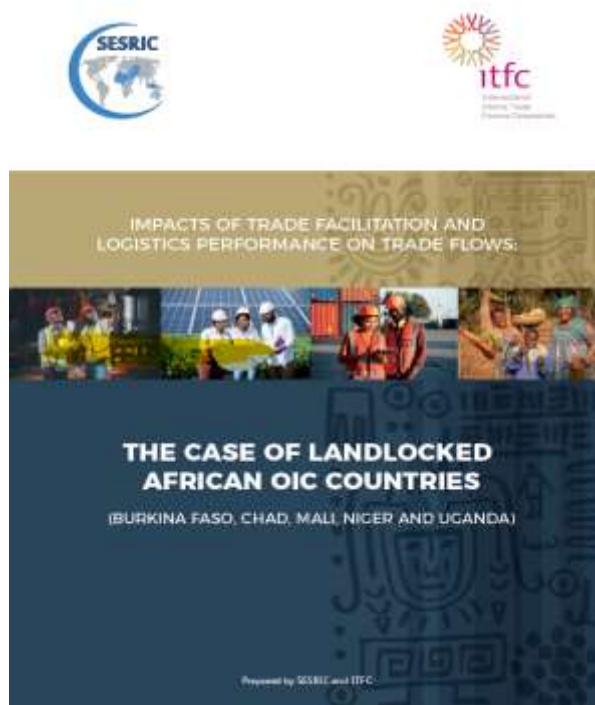
The main objective of the round table was to present and discuss OIC countries' experience, international good practices, and concrete policy solutions implemented for ensuring food security through sustainable water management in agricultural development.

The Assistant Director General, Mr. Fadi Farasin represented SESRIC in the round table discussions and delivered a presentation titled: Towards Sustainable Agriculture Water Management in OIC Member Countries. In his presentation, Mr. Farasin emphasized the close relationship between water and food security and touched upon the current trends and main challenges facing OIC member countries. To address the challenges; Mr. Farasin, highlighted the need to enhance intra-OIC cooperation, particularly through the adoption of more sustainable water management practices, more measurable goals, broader funding opportunities for various infrastructure and climate adaptation programs, and through the improvement of capacity building through cooperation.

## IMPACTS OF TRADE FACILITATION AND LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE ON TRADE FLOWS: THE CASE OF LANDLOCKED AFRICAN OIC COUNTRIES (BURKINA FASO, CHAD, MALI, NIGER AND UGANDA)

SESRIC and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), a member of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, finalized a technical report investigating the potential impacts of trade facilitation and logistics performance on trade flows in the case of landlocked African OIC countries, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Uganda. This research was completed within the framework of cooperation initiated between the two institutions to produce three research studies on the impacts of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on African OIC countries. The first report published in 2021 focused on sectoral implications of the AfCFTA and showed that specialization will transform production structures and offer the potential to establish regional value chains, providing governments with an opportunity to engage in skills enhancement and invest in productive capacities. The second report of the research trilogy sheds light on trade facilitation measures as driving forces that will complement tariff reduction to ensure that landlocked countries are not left behind.

Trade facilitation is one of the crucial components of the AfCFTA Agreement, which is a particularly important policy dimension for the landlocked African countries as they face serious obstacles in accessing global markets by means of maritime transportation. In Africa, there are 16 landlocked countries, all of which are in the Sub-Saharan region and 13 of which are listed among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Five out of those 13 landlocked LDCs, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Uganda, are OIC members. By employing a diverse set of data and methodology, it is found that there are significant gains from trade facilitation and improved logistics infrastructure. This benefit is significantly higher in the case of African countries. While infrastructure investments in logistics generate the largest gains, landlocked countries can attain additional gains from efficiency improvements in trade facilitation measures. Nevertheless, aggregate impact of logistics performance remain significantly higher than the impacts of soft trade facilitation measures in both landlocked and coastal countries. This study also presents the potential gains for the five landlocked African OIC countries in case of a simulated improvement in their trade facilitation performance.





## TRAINING & TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT



### SESRIC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The Centre organizes capacity building training activities under 19 different sector-specific capacity building programmes. Various modalities are being utilized while implementing these activities in line with the needs and capacities of the OIC Member Countries. SESRIC spares no effort towards assisting the member countries in developing their human and institutional capacities in different sectors following south-south cooperation mechanisms. This is achieved through collaborating with competent national institutions from the member countries with the main aim of sharing their expertise, know-how and competencies with their counterparts in other OIC Member Countries.

Considering online platforms' convenience and efficiency, especially in reaching wider audience, the Centre continues to utilize online solutions as a useful modality in implementing its various activities. Numerous training courses, workshops, and webinars were implemented in the second half of 2022 and have brought together more than 1500 trainees under the umbrella of SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes. Below presented some of the implemented activities during the period under consideration:

### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (SD-CaB)

Her Excellency Ms. Derya YANIK, Minister of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, Addressed the Opening of the Workshop on “Enhancing the Capacities of National Institutions in the Field of Social Development in the OIC Member States” Jointly Organized by SESRIC and the OIC General Secretariat



Within the framework of the implementation of the relevant resolutions adopted by the 1<sup>st</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development held in Istanbul in December 2019 and the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Islamabad in March 2022, SESRIC and the OIC General Secretariat organized a Workshop on “Enhancing the Capacities of National Institutions in the Field of Social Development in the OIC Member States” on 02-04 August 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The Workshop brought together 216 experts and senior officials from the relevant national institutions in the field of social development in 26 OIC Member States and relevant OIC organs and institutions, including IsDB, ICESCO, IPHRC, ICDT, IRCICA, ICCIA, IIUM, ICYF, ISF and WDO, as well as the regional and international organizations, including Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Workshop, which was also organized within the framework of SESRIC's Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), aimed to identify challenges and obstacles that national institutions face in the domain of social development, including the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable populations and social development, to present OIC strategies and plans of action relevant to social development as well as to enhance intra-OIC cooperation amongst Member States and OIC organs and institutions, particularly with a view to facilitating networking and joint action in the domain of social development.

## DIPLOMACY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (DIPLOMACY-CAB)

### Training Course on “Humanitarian Diplomacy for the OIC Junior Diplomats”



Within the framework of its Diplomacy Capacity Building Programme (Diplomacy-CaB), SESRIC, in partnership with the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye and the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), organized a Training Course on “Humanitarian Diplomacy for the OIC Junior Diplomats” on 24-27 October 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was attended by 97 young diplomats from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of 30 OIC Member Countries.

The main aim of the training course was to provide knowledge of how humanitarian diplomacy carried out in an international setting and to understand the interplay between humanitarian diplomacy and foreign policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The training included interactive lectures and case study analysis on skills and techniques utilized in the practice of humanitarian diplomacy.

## TOURISM CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (TOURISM-CAB)

### Training Course on “Strengthening Institutional Capacities in the Field of Halal Tourism Industry to Improve the Competitiveness of Tourism Destinations”



Within the framework of SESRIC's Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) as well as the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Centre organized a Training Course on “Strengthening Institutional Capacities in the Field of Halal Tourism Industry to Improve the Competitiveness of Tourism Destinations” on 19-21 July 2022.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Islamic Tourism Centre (ITC) under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia for the benefit of 79 experts and executives from Ministries of Tourism and National Tourism Institutions in 23 OIC Member Countries.

The training course aimed at strengthening the human and institutional capacities in the field of Halal tourism to improve the competitiveness of tourism destinations in the OIC Member Countries. Participants of the training course developed a better understanding of ways and means of designing policies and strategies to position different regions and provinces of their countries as competitive Islamic tourism destinations.

### Training Webinar on “Prospects of Health Tourism in OIC Member Countries”

Within the framework of SESRIC's Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB) and in line with relevant resolutions of the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), SESRIC and ICDT jointly organized a Training Webinar on “Prospects of Health Tourism in OIC Member Countries” on 8-9 November 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training webinar was provided by competent experts and academicians from the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of experts and executives from Tourism and Health Ministries and relevant national institutions of 25 OIC member countries.





The training webinar aimed to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of tourism experts and executives in this field and to provide insights into different aspects of health tourism, its potential in OIC Countries, and marketing and branding. The training webinar also served as a platform to exchange experiences and best practices among participants to enhance intra-OIC cooperation in this important niche tourism market. Representatives from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC), the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council, the Jordan Tourism Board, and the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure of the Republic of Senegal also made comprehensive presentations presenting their countries' challenges and success stories in this field.

### IBNSINA HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (IBNSINA-CaB)

#### Training Course on “Prevention Strategies for Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases”



Within the framework of SESRIC IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population of the Arab Republic of Egypt, organized a Training Course on “Prevention Strategies for Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases” on 15-17 August 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts and prominent academicians from the relevant National Institutions and Universities of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the benefit of 104 participants from the Ministries of Health and relevant national institutions in 21 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to bring together healthcare professionals from the Ministries of Health and relevant national institutions in the OIC Member Countries to enhance their knowledge and build upon their expertise on the global challenge of prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The training course touched upon the importance of preventive strategies for various infectious and chronic diseases, including hepatitis C virus (HCV), respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, among others, to assist the OIC Member Countries in tackling the challenges faced in this important domain within the framework of the Thematic Area 2 of the OIC-Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023.

### AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (AGRI-CaB)

#### Training Course on “Enhancing Food Security through Efficient Irrigation Systems”



Within the framework of SESRIC's Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB), the Centre, in collaboration with the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries Malaysia, organized a Training Course on “Enhancing Food Security through Efficient Irrigation Systems” on 23-25 August 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts from MARDI for the benefit of 91 experts and executives from Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of agriculture and water resources management in 22 OIC Member Countries. Representatives from the relevant OIC Institutions, including the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and SESRIC, also delivered comprehensive presentations highlighting their efforts in this domain.

The training course aimed at providing insights into water productivity and new technologies and innovations used in irrigation systems for wiser use of resources and food sustainability. Participants also availed of this opportunity to share their experiences on the subject from their respective countries and regions.

## PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (PES-CAB)

### Training Workshop on “Knowledge-Economy, Promotion of Entrepreneurship Activities and Reducing Informal Employment”



Within the framework of SESRIC's Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB) and in line with the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2021-2022, SESRIC organized a Training Workshop on “Knowledge-Economy, Promotion of Entrepreneurship Activities and Reducing Informal Employment” on 01-03 November 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Labour of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the benefit of 42 experts and executives from the National Public Employment Services (PES) Agencies/ Authorities of 9 Arabic-speaking Member States of the OIC

## POVERTY ALLEVIATION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (PA-CAB)

### Training Workshop on “Poverty Reduction Policies and Strategies” for the benefit of OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries



Within the framework of its Poverty Alleviation Capacity Building Programme (PA-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills of the Kingdom of Morocco, organized a Training Workshop on “Poverty Reduction Policies and Strategies” on 15-16 November 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshop was delivered by competent experts from the National Agency of the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPES) under the Ministry of

Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills of the Kingdom of Morocco for the benefit of 63 experts and executives from the Ministries and relevant national institutions of 11 OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries.

The main objective of the training workshop was to provide participants with insights into the development of effective policies and strategies for reducing poverty in order to promote socioeconomic development and enhance the well-being of the people in the OIC Member Countries. The workshop also provided an opportunity to share the challenges and obstacles that relevant national institutions face in this domain and highlight best practices and lessons learned from the OIC region.

## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (OSH-CAB)

### SESRIC Organized the Training Workshop on “The Role of Routine Inspections in Preventing Hazards” for the benefit of OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries



Within the framework of the SESRIC's Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and in line with the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) Work Plan 2021-2022, SESRIC organized a Training Workshop on “The Role of Routine Inspections in Preventing Hazards” on 29-30 November 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshop was delivered by competent experts from the Tunisian Occupational Health and Safety Institute (TOSHI) under the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia for the benefit of 83 experts and executives from the national OSH authorities and relevant national institutions of the 13 OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries.

The training workshop aimed at providing insights into regular workplace inspections to ensure workers' safety and health and prevent workplace incidents, injuries, and illnesses. The training workshop helped participants to better understand the international requirements related to the inspection of health risks in the workplace. The training also focused on relevant technical aspects regarding the process of hazard identification, occupational risk assessment and control.



## TECHNICAL COOPERATION

SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing technical cooperation and collaboration among the OIC Member Countries by facilitating technical assistance, exchanging of knowledge and best practices, skills development, and networking. The Centre also emphasises the importance of “region and country-specific development projects” that are tailored according to the characteristics and needs of each region. Therefore, SESRIC partners with national, regional and international institutions to implement projects and activities under its technical cooperation initiatives developed with a view to addressing the needs of the OIC Member Countries.

## REVERSE LINKAGE

### REVERSE LINKAGE FOR PAKISTAN: EARTHQUAKE SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Training Courses under the Reverse Linkage Project between Pakistan and Türkiye on “Earthquake Seismological Research



Within the framework of the Reverse Linkage Project between Pakistan and Türkiye on “Earthquake Seismological Research”, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center (MRC) of Türkiye, and Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), organized three training courses in parallel, namely; Training Course on “Global Positioning System (GPS): Data Collection and Processing”, Training Course on “Seismology: Earthquake Data Processing and Analysis”, and Training Course on “Site Classification: Data Collection and Processing”. The training courses were conducted on 29 August - 06 September 2022 at Pakistan Meteorological Department’s Headquarters in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The training courses were provided by competent trainers from the MRC of Türkiye for the benefit of PMD trainees. The training courses aimed at assessing the overall progress on the tasks given during the first set of trainings conducted in March 2022 at MRC’s Headquarters in Gebze-Kocaeli, Türkiye. The training courses also provided necessary enrichment and technical support, including collecting samples and analyzing data to ensure that the systems are running efficiently and effectively. The training courses will contribute to the efforts of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) towards enhancing Pakistan’s capacity in detecting and monitoring earthquakes and assessing their risks.

## SESRIC PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE COMCEC

Within the framework of the 9<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) funded three projects submitted by SESRIC for the 2022 implementation period. The projects were designed in collaboration with relevant national institutions in the member countries with a view to strengthening the human resources and institutional capacities in the cooperation areas of finance, transport and communication, and poverty alleviation in the OIC Member Countries. Below presented the three funded projects and the implemented activities within their frameworks:

### PROJECT ON “STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PROMOTING ISLAMIC FINANCE IN THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES”

#### Training Course on “The Role of Central Banks in Increasing Financial Literacy”



Within the framework of the SESRIC project titled “Strengthening Financial Literacy and Promoting Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries”, which is funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) under the 9<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, the Centre, in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye organized a Training Course on “The Role of Central Banks in Increasing Financial Literacy” on 05-06 September 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 123 participants from the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of 29 OIC Member Countries.

The training course, which was also organized within the framework of SESRIC’s Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), aimed at introducing a broad understanding of financial literacy and improving awareness-raising mechanisms on this important pillar to ensure financial literate OIC societies. In addition, the activity highlighted the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye’s Economics Education Initiative titled “Economics for All” and touched upon its tools and outreach activities. The training course was geared towards building the participants’ capacities in the domain through sharing the Turkish experiences focusing on the accomplishments achieved, challenges faced, and prospects towards raising further awareness of the role played by financial entities in promoting financial literacy.

#### Training Course on “Using Financial Technologies (FINTECH) in Islamic Finance”



Within the framework of the SESRIC project titled “Strengthening Financial Literacy and Promoting Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries”, which is funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) under the 9<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals of the COMCEC Project Funding, the Centre, in collaboration with Bank Indonesia and Financial Services Authority of Indonesia organized a Training Course on “Using Financial Technologies (FINTECH) in Islamic Finance” on 07-08 September 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Bank Indonesia and Financial Services Authority of Indonesia for the benefit of 148 participants from the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities in 30 OIC Member Countries.

The training course, which was also organized within the framework of SESRIC’s Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), aimed at introducing the utilization of Financial Technologies (FINTECH) in Islamic Finance while touching upon the potential and prospects of Islamic FINTECH. The training course also highlighted the Indonesian Payment System Policy in developing Islamic economy and finance, among many other relevant topics, towards building the participants’ capacities in the domain through sharing the Indonesian experience, the accomplishments achieved, challenges faced and prospects towards developing Islamic Finance and advancing FINTECH.



## Workshop on “Best Practices on Promoting Financial Literacy and Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries”

Within the framework of the SESRIC project titled “Strengthening Financial Literacy and Promoting Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries”, which is funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) under the 9<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, the Centre, in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye, organized a Workshop on “Best Practices on Promoting Financial Literacy and Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries” on 25-26 September 2022 on the sidelines of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum in Istanbul, Türkiye.



The workshop consisted of comprehensive presentations delivered by competent high-level experts and guest speakers from Central Banks and Monetary Authorities in the OIC Member Countries, as well as prominent academicians working in the relevant fields. The sessions covered ways and means of promoting financial literacy and integrating financial technology (FINTECH) into Islamic finance towards achieving more inclusive financial systems. The workshop also provided an opportunity to share the best practices and the efforts exerted in this domain in the OIC region.

The workshop, which was also organized within the framework of SESRIC’s Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB), stands as a continuation of the work done through the said COMCEC funded Project’s two introductory virtual activities, namely the Training Course on “The Role of Central Banks in Increasing Financial Literacy” and Training Course on “Using Financial Technologies (FINTECH) in Islamic Finance” which were held on 05-06 September 2022 and 07-08 September 2022, respectively. A list of recommendations was also drafted and elaborated on with the participants at the end of the workshop as a takeaway from the project aiming at assisting the participating member countries in defining the way forward towards achieving sustainable outcomes for the long term.

## PROJECT ON “IMPROVING THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR PPPS IN TRANSPORT SECTOR IN THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES”

### Training Course on “Regulatory Framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Transport Sector”

Within the framework of the SESRIC project titled “Improving the Regulatory Framework for PPPs in Transport Sector in the OIC Member Countries”, which is funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) under the 9<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, the Centre organized a Training Course on “Regulatory Framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Transport Sector” on 13-14 September 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.



The training course was attended by 75 senior-level officials from public PPP authorities as well as the relevant Ministries responsible for executing national PPP strategies and policies in the transport area in 21 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the technical capacities of participants on the theoretical aspects of the regulatory framework for PPPs, including policies, laws, regulations, institutions and procedures. This training course was followed by a workshop, which will complement the training in terms of the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices among the relevant national authorities of the OIC Member Countries.

## Workshop on “Regulatory Framework for Public-Private Partnerships in Transport Sector”

Within the framework of the SESRIC Project titled “Improving the Regulatory Framework for PPPs in Transport Sector in the OIC Member Countries”, which is funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) under the 9<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, the Centre organized a Workshop on “Regulatory Framework for Public-Private Partnerships in Transport Sector” on 18-19 October 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.



The workshop brought together 74 senior-level officials from public PPP authorities as well as the relevant Ministries responsible for executing national PPP strategies and policies in the transport area in 23 OIC Member Countries. The workshop included country experience-sharing sessions where representatives from the relevant national institutions of Albania, Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Pakistan and Türkiye highlighted the best practices and initiatives of their respective countries in this domain. Moreover, representatives from private sector institutions shared their views and perspectives on PPP projects, including their engagement with public authorities, investment decisions in the transport sector and risk management in PPP projects.

The main objective of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for the senior-level officials from public PPP authorities to learn, share and exchange knowledge and best practices as well as to explore cooperation opportunities in order to develop a robust regulatory framework for PPPs in the OIC Member Countries. The work programme included presentations and case studies from the member countries as well as discussion sessions on different aspects of PPP projects such as the project preparation phase (reasons for PPP, feasibility studies, VfM analysis), project implementation phase (tender process, financing, construction, implementation etc.), Institutional Capacity for PPP Model (legal framework, PPP unit structure, auditing and monitoring mechanism etc.) and perspectives of the private sector. The workshop also contributed to producing a repository document that includes the best practices and success stories from the participating countries in order to strengthen the regulatory framework for implementing effective PPP projects in the OIC Member Countries.

## PROJECT ON “FOSTERING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (PES) IN THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES”

### Workshop on “The Role of Digital Solutions for Effective Delivery of Public Employment Services in the OIC Countries”



Within the framework of the SESRIC project titled “Fostering Information Technology (IT) Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Public Employment Services (PES) in the OIC Member Countries”, which is funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) under the 9<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, the Centre, in collaboration with the project partners namely, Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSSO), Ministry of Manpower of the Republic of Indonesia and Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), organized a Workshop on

“The Role of Digital Solutions for Effective Delivery of Public Employment Services in the OIC Countries” on 14-15 September 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The workshop brought together 97 experts and senior officials from the national public employment services (PES) institutions/ authorities and relevant national institutions in 22 OIC Member Countries. The workshop included country experiences and best practices of the PES institutions/ authorities, as well as keynote presentations from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Association of Public Employment Services (WAPES).

The workshop, which was also organized within the framework of the OIC-PESNET and SESRIC Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), aimed to highlight the critical importance of technology adoption in improving the effectiveness of PES and provided a platform to discuss common challenges and deliberate on possible solutions in this domain. The workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to share experiences and best practices on the topic and have a better understanding of the capacity development needs and priorities of the PES Institutions in the OIC Member Countries.



## Training Course on “Fostering Information Technology (IT) Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Public Employment Services (PES) in the OIC Member Countries”

Within the framework of the SESRIC Project titled “Fostering Information Technology (IT) Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Public Employment Services (PES) in the OIC Member Countries”, which is funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) under the 9<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, the Centre organized a Training Course on “Fostering Information Technology (IT) Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Public Employment Services (PES) in the OIC Member Countries” on 19-20 October 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.



The training course was provided by competent experts from the Malaysian Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) for the benefit of 91 participants from the national public employment services (PES) agencies/ authorities of 26 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to enhance the technical skills and knowledge of the participants on integrating IT and digital applications into public employment services as a solution to improve service effectiveness. It also provided insights into relevant IT-related technical topics to ensure that job search and counselling services are available to all, especially for vulnerable segments of society.

## NETWORKS

SESRIC brings together the national institutions from the OIC Member Countries working in a wide range of socio-economic domains to establish closer cooperation for sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and conducting joint initiatives, projects and programmes through the networking cooperation modality. Every year, the Centre analyses the needs for such networks and holds networking meetings in close cooperation with the National Focal Points of the relevant institutions. SESRIC currently hosts two main Networks; the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and the OIC Public Employment Services (OIC-PESNET). Below listed some of the activities implemented during the period under consideration within the framework of the abovementioned networks:

### OIC PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES NETWORK (OIC-PESNET)

#### Training Webinar on “Development of Entrepreneurial Skills of Disabled People”



Within the framework of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) and in line with the OIC-PESNET Work Plan 2021-2022, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-PESNET, SESRIC provided facilitation and necessary technical support for the Training Webinar on “Development of Entrepreneurial Skills of Disabled People” which was organized by the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), in its capacity as the Chair of the OIC-PESNET, on 03 August 2022.

The main objective of the training webinar was to provide insights into the good practices and support models followed by the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) in developing the entrepreneurial skills of disabled people to encourage their active participation in the labour market. The activity touched upon the primary purpose and expected outcomes of the support mechanisms and provided details on the implementation process, rules and procedures.

#### Annual Meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET)



SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET), in collaboration with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), in its capacity as the Chair of the Network, organized the Annual Meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the OIC-PESNET on 17 November 2022 through a video conferencing platform.

The Meeting brought together 61 senior-level representatives from the national public employment services (PES) agencies/ institutions of 27 OIC Member Countries to discuss the progress achieved in the OIC-PESNET Work Plan 2021-2022, which was adopted during the 3rd Meeting of the Network in June 2021, as well as to evaluate the realized activities and their outcomes towards the implementation of the objectives and targets of the Work Plan. The Meeting also reviewed the planned activities under the Work Plan to be implemented until the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Network.

## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH NETWORK (OIC-OSHNET)

Training Workshop on “Developing Strategies on Mainstreaming OSH into Education Systems”



Within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and in line with the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022, SESRIC, in its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC-OSHNET, provided facilitation and necessary technical support for the Training Workshop on “Developing Strategies on Mainstreaming OSH into Education Systems” which was organized by the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Network, on 25-26 October 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshop aimed at promoting a safety culture in the OIC region by developing strategies for mainstreaming OSH into education systems through sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices among the national OSH institutions of the OIC Member Countries. The training also focused on how national education systems in the OIC Member Countries may include safety and health-related subjects and incorporate them into the curricula.

Training Course on “Preventing Workplace Hazards”



Within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET), SESRIC provided facilitation and necessary technical support for a Training Course on “Preventing Workplace Hazards”, which was organized by the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health at the Ministry of Labour of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on 06-07 December 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was delivered by competent experts from the Ministry of Labour of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the benefit of specialists and executives from the relevant Ministries and national institutions in charge of occupational safety and health in Arabic-speaking Member States of the OIC.

The training course aimed to provide an overview of occupational hazards in the working environment, including but not limited to physical, electrical, mechanical, and ergonomic, as well as biological and chemical hazards. It also discussed the designed processes of occupational risk assessment to prevent workplace hazards and the particularity of dealing with risks in the workplace for some special groups.

## PORTALS

SESRIC develops and maintains various web portals in line with the decisions taken at the relevant OIC Fora to strengthen communication, cooperation, and knowledge sharing among the relevant stakeholders in the OIC Member Countries. The portals act as the main information sharing platforms in the relevant fields, facilitate coordination of activities and serve as a library for all publications and reports related to these areas. Currently, SESRIC hosts OIC-OSHNET Portal, OIC Portal on Water Resources, OIC-Health Portal and Tobacco-Free OIC Portal; all of which can be accessed through the SESRIC website: <https://www.sesric.org/>



## THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC-VET)

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) is a programme developed by SESRIC to support and supplement the OIC Member Countries' efforts to overcome the current challenges and limitations faced in the area of technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The programme aims to enhance the quality of TVET systems in the OIC Member Countries and, thus, contribute to the development and competitiveness of their economies. The OIC-VET Programme's activities are implemented through different modalities such as training of trainers (ToT) courses, training workshops, training courses and webinars. Here are some implemented activities during the period under consideration:

### Training Course on “Development of National Vocational Qualifications Framework”



Within the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized a Training Course on “Development of National Vocational Qualifications Framework” on 26-28 July 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Vocational Qualifications Authority (VQA) of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 115 experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions in 26 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to provide insights into the process of designing and developing vocational qualifications for a wide range of occupations in order to establish an effective and sustainable national qualifications system. The course also allowed participants to familiarise themselves with the most recent tools, materials, and methods used in developing new vocational qualifications or updating the existing ones.

### Training Workshop on “Distance Education and E-Learning in TVET”

Within the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized a Training Workshop on “Distance Education and E-Learning in TVET” on 20-22 September 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshop brought together 129 experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 28 OIC Member Countries to strengthen their technical capacities and knowledge of distance education and e-learning in terms of concepts, techniques and features, as well as to raise awareness of the role of ITC in TVET delivery and systems.



The training workshop, which was provided by competent experts from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, also included the country experience-sharing sessions where representatives from the relevant national TVET institutions highlighted the best practices and initiatives of their respective countries in this field. Moreover, representatives from the relevant international and OIC institutions shared their experiences and efforts on the relevant topics of the training.

### Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Web Design and Coding”



Within the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Web Design and Coding” on 12-13 October 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was conducted by utilizing SESRIC's in-house capacity and expertise in the field of web application development. The training was delivered by Mr. Abu Naser Huda, Director of Publication and IT Department and Mr. Mohamdi Vetan, Senior IT Officer, and attended by 116 experts and professionals from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 24 OIC Member Countries.

The training course aimed at improving the skills and knowledge of the participants in terms of web design and development, particularly with regard to identifying trending technologies and frameworks used by front-end and back-end web developers. The training also provided insights into the modern architecture used in websites and contained hands-on coding sessions on building websites by using web components.

### Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Graphic Design and Photo Print Techniques”

Within the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education under the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Graphic Design and Photo Print Techniques” on 13-15 December 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.



The training course was provided by a competent expert from the General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 132 trainers and professionals from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 24 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the ToT course was to enhance the skills and capacity of trainers in the OIC Member Countries in graphic design and photo printing techniques which would contribute to reinforcing vocational students' knowledge with modern practices. The training course also aimed to provide insights into the fundamentals of visual art and design, tools and applications used in the design process, photography and photo editing and the basics of digital printing.



## JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development (ISSN 1308-7800), previously titled the Journal of Economic Cooperation among Islamic Countries (ISSN 0252 - 953X), is a journal of applied research in development economics. The Journal welcomes original papers dealing with important economic and social issues of immediate concern to the developing countries. It will give special attention to those papers which deal with the potentials for and possibilities of promoting and expanding economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries. The Journal appears in English, in March, June, September and December. The Journal is indexed/abstracted in SCOPUS, JEL/Econlit, i-Journals, i-Focus and i-Future.

### Volume 43 (2022) Number 3

This issue includes eight papers that highlight various investment and political implications with causal effects explained by economic growth, fiscal and monetary policy, and political institutions.

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### Volume 43 (2022) Number 4

This issue includes eight papers that examine current drivers and efficiency of developing economies. Various investment and political implications can be derived from the empirical results of these papers.

Readers can access this issue via:

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