



## 56th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

### Side Event on

# “Harnessing Technological Developments for Modernizing National Statistical Systems in OIC and ESCWA Member Countries”

6 March 2025 | 13:00 – 14:45 | Turkish Mission, New York

Registration Link: [https://erp.sesric.org/events/56UNSC\\_Modernizing\\_NSS/Apply](https://erp.sesric.org/events/56UNSC_Modernizing_NSS/Apply)

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

National Statistical Offices (NSOs) hold a critical mandate in informing evidence-based policymaking by systematically collecting, analyzing, and disseminating a vast range of economic, social, and demographic data. In today’s rapidly evolving digital landscape, NSOs face unprecedented opportunities and challenges. The digital transformation of societies is reshaping the operations of NSOs, requiring them to adapt to meet growing demands for timely, disaggregated, and high-quality data.

Digitalization enables NSOs to enhance the scope and quality of data collection and dissemination. By adopting advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and big data analytics, NSOs can achieve greater operational efficiency, improve data accessibility, and foster collaboration across governments, businesses, and international organizations. This transition is particularly significant for OIC and ESCWA member countries, where bridging the digital divide is essential for achieving sustainable development goals.

This side event is organized in alignment with resolutions adopted during the 13th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and the recommendations from the 16th Session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee. The event seeks to explore how digital transformation, emerging technologies, and innovative practices can modernize national statistical systems (NSSs). It also aims to highlight strategies to enhance statistical capacity, address challenges in digital adoption, and foster international cooperation for sustainable statistical development.

The event will serve as a platform for NSOs, regional organizations, and international experts to share best practices, discuss challenges, and propose actionable strategies to advance digitalization within NSSs. Aligned with the agenda item on “Management and Modernization of Statistical Systems” of the 56th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the event underscores the importance of bridging the digital divide and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

### Key Objectives:

1. Examine the transformative role of emerging technologies in modernizing NSOs.
2. Identify opportunities and challenges in enhancing statistical capacity through digitalization.
3. Share best practices and innovative approaches to modernize NSSs.
4. Foster partnerships among NSOs, international organizations, and other stakeholders to support digital transformation.

## EVENT DETAILS



### STARTS AT

6 March 2025  
13:00 (EST)



### ENDS AT

6 March 2025  
14:45 (EST)



### VENUE

**Turkish Mission,  
821 First Avenue,  
New York, USA**



### ORGANISERS

ESCWA, SESRIC,  
TURKSTAT,  
UNSD



### LANGUAGE

ENGLISH



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### TARGET AUDIENCE AND PARTICIPANTS

- Senior officials from NSOs, including heads of departments focused on digital transformation, data systems modernization, and technology adoption.
- Representatives of international organizations and regional commissions with mandates on statistical capacity development and digitalization.
- Policy advisors and technical experts from ministries of planning, information technology, and economic development engaged in national data ecosystem management.
- Academics, researchers, and data scientists specializing in artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and their applications in official statistics.

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

<p><b>13:00 – 13:10</b> 10 minutes</p>	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Zehra Zümürüt SELÇUK</b>, Director General, SESRIC</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Amr NOUR</b>, Principal Adviser, Office of the Director, UNSD</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Wafa ABOUL HOSN</b>, Chief of Economic Statistics, Statistics Division, ESCWA</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Erhan ÇETİNKAYA</b>, President, TURKSTAT</li> </ul>
<p><b>13:10 – 14:00</b> 50 minutes</p>	<p><b>PANEL DISCUSSION: HARNESSING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS FOR MODERNIZING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS</b></p> <p>The panel will explore key digital transformation initiatives undertaken by OIC and ESCWA countries, showcasing their efforts to modernize national statistical systems through innovative approaches. Discussions will focus on the integration of AI and machine learning into official statistics, highlighting their potential to enhance data quality, accessibility, and efficiency. Additionally, the panel will address strategies to bridge the digital divide, emphasizing the importance of inclusive and sustainable statistical development in achieving global and regional goals.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Onur CAGLAR</b>, Director of Statistics and Information, SESRIC</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Wafa ABOUL HOSN</b>, Chief of Economic Statistics, Statistics Division, ESCWA</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mohd Uzir MAHIDIN</b>, Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics Malaysia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Tugba DEGIRMENCI</b>, Vice President, TURKSTAT</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Haidar FRAIHAT</b>, Director General, Department of Statistics of Jordan</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Faryal AHMED</b>, Coordinator of the Data For Now (D4N) Initiative, UNSD</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mohammad HASSAN</b>, Executive Director, Statistics and Data Science Sector, Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre, UAE</li> </ul>



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14:00 – 14:30 15 minutes	AUDIENCE Q&A AND INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS
14:30 – 14:45 30 minutes	NETWORKING

## REGISTRATION

To participate in the panel discussion, please complete the **online registration form** by scanning the **QR code** below or clicking the **registration link** provided:

Registration Link: [https://erp.sesric.org/events/56UNSC\\_Modernizing\\_NSS/Apply](https://erp.sesric.org/events/56UNSC_Modernizing_NSS/Apply)

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United Nations  
Statistical Commission  
56th Session  
ECONOMY • ENVIRONMENT • POPULATION • SOCIETY • TRADE

Side Event of the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN StatCom

“Harnessing Technological Developments for Modernizing National Statistical Systems in OIC and ESCWA Member Countries”

Thursday, 6 March 2025  
13:00 – 14:45 EST  
Turkish Mission, 821 First Avenue,  
New York, USA

Scan the QR code to register:

#UN56SC

## GEOLOCATION

For the **exact venue address** and **detailed directions**, please visit the following [link](#).