



**14th Session of the
OIC-Statistical Commission (OIC-STATCOM)**

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1-3 October 2025, Ankara, Türkiye

Distinguished Heads and Representatives of National Statistical Offices

Representatives of International Organizations

Respected Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuhu.

It is an honor and privilege to join you for the 14th Session of the OIC-Statistical Commission (OIC-STATCOM) in this beautiful city of Ankara. I would like to extend my gratitude to Ms. Zehra Seljuk and her team at SESRIC for their warm hospitality, and exceptional efforts in organizing this event. This platform continues to be an inspiration for advancing statistical cooperation, knowledge sharing, and capacity development across our member states.

The significance of this annual meeting cannot be overstated. As we convene to address the future of official statistics within our member countries, we recognize that reliable data is not only a technical resource but a fundamental driver of development progress. Data drives evidence-based decision-making, guides resource allocation, and helps us measure our success in addressing the most pressing issues of our time.

This became more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic where National Statistical Offices (NSOs) forced to embrace digitalization and technology. By modernizing with AI, big data, and geospatial tools, NSOs can deliver statistics that are reliable, high quality and available in real time at lower cost.

As we approach the beginning of the current program of Action (2026-2030), we are presented with a valuable opportunity to both consolidate our achievements and address emerging challenges. Looking ahead, the program must also place strong emphasis on innovation, strategic partnerships, and capacity-building, ensuring that our National Statistical Systems are equipped to meet future demands and remain responsive in an evolving data ecosystem.

We should not underestimate the value of strengthening statistical systems. As I highlighted in the previous OIC-StatCom, evidence shows that on average for every \$1 invested in einvested in data systems in low- and middle-income countries generates \$32 in economic benefits.

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Over the next three days, we will deliberate on several key areas to address the challenges we face.

Clean energy is vital for sustainable growth in the OIC region. In this regard, the IsDB Group has financed around US\$ 82 billion or forty percent of its total financing to the energy sector. Strengthening NSOs in energy statistics and promoting harmonized indicators will help member countries advance renewable adoption and balance growth, equity, and sustainability.

Education is both a fundamental right and a cornerstone of development. In this sector, IsDB Group financing amount of US\$ 6.1 billion, reflecting its central role in our mandate. Quality data in the education sector will help us monitor access, equity, and learning outcomes. In addition, it would strengthen accountability and empower policymakers with the evidence needed to design inclusive education policies to ensure that no child is left behind.

Together, through collaboration and innovation, we can harness the power of data to build more equitable and prosperous futures for all.

I look forward to our productive discussions, and I thank you for your participation in these important sessions.

Thank you.

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuhu