DRAFT MESSAGE OF

H.E. MR. HISSEIN BRAHIM TAHA,

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OIC,

TO

THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION
OF ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
(OIC-STATCOM)

ANKARA, REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE,
1ST – 3RD OCTOBER, 2025

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Members of the OIC Statistical Commission,
Your Excellency Mrs. Zehra Zümrüt Selcuk, Director General of SESRIC,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allahi wa-Barakatuhu

I am very much honoured to address the Fourteenth Session of the OIC Statistical Commission holding in Ankara, the capital city of the Republic of Türkiye, which also hosts the headquarters of the Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) since its inception in 1978. On this occasion, let me, at the onset, express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for its continuous support for the various activities of the SESRIC as well as other OIC institutions.

I also wish to commend Mrs. Zehra Zümrüt Selcuk, Director General, and the entire staff of the SESRIC for the elaborate preparations made for this meeting and for the generous hospitality accorded all participants. By the same token, I hereby acknowledge the outstanding support of Islamic Development Bank to the activities of the OIC Statistical Commission.

I am equally grateful to all delegates, who have come to Ankara from their capitals to make this meeting successful.

I am hopeful that your deliberations during the next two days would enable us to assess the performance of the OIC Statistical Commission since its last session here in 2024 and set its priorities for the coming year.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Members of the OIC Statistical Commission,

We convene today at a time marked by a greater level of global uncertainty, driven by geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation and accelerating climate change. As our countries faced numerous challenges ranging from poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, environmental degradation and climate change impacts, the need for reliable, accurate, and timely data, especially given the growing role and influence of the artificial intelligence, are more urgent than ever. Accordingly, your role is to ensure that national statistical systems are up to the task of providing reliable and timely data necessary for informed decision-making at national, regional and global levels.

Against this background, I am pleased to note that the present session will conduct a midterm review of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030, which was adopted in 2020 and serves as a framework for improving national statistical systems in OIC Member States. This review will, undoubtedly, result in actionable recommendations for adjustments, resource reallocation, or potential redesign to ensure that the Vision remains relevant and on track to achieve its long-term objectives.

I would also like to inform this session of the on-going elaboration of the new OIC Programme of Action for 2026-2035, and assessment of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, which this year entered its final year of implementation. As such, the OIC Statistical Commission has much to contribute to the success of these endeavors. We need to identify indicators that capture the important notions of wellbeing, progress, and sustainable development more adequately in the new OIC Programme of Action for

2026-2035, and, at the same time, build the capacity of Member States to compile and own these indicators.

Furthermore, I am glad to note that this session will also discuss modernization of national statistical offices (NSOs) through digitalization, since governments, businesses and societies are undergoing digital transformations that are fundamentally changing the traditional roles of various institutions and data users expect a lot from NSOs. The OIC Statistical Commission, therefore, should play an active role in facilitating technical cooperation, including sharing best practices, between OIC Member States towards developing innovative methods of data collection and analysis, including the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for data.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the OIC General Secretariat's commitment to working closely with you to further strengthen and enhance intra-OIC cooperation in the development, production, dissemination and communication of statistics.

I thank you for kind your attention and wish all of you a successful deliberation at this meeting.

Wassalamu Alaykum wa-Rahmatullah wa-Barakatuh.