

**SOLUTIONS SESSION ON “PREPARING FUTURE GENERATIONS:  
EXPANDING ACCESS AND QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE OIC REGION”**

**SIDE EVENT AT THE 2<sup>nd</sup> WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (WSSD2)  
4 NOVEMBER 2025 DOHA, 04:45 PM - 06:00 PM, Qatar National Convention Centre**

To register for the event, please visit: <https://bit.ly/SESRIC-WSSD2-Future-Education>

**DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE**

***Background Information***

The Draft Political Declaration of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) underscores the importance of inclusive, equitable, and quality education as a cornerstone for achieving social justice, sustainable development, and intergenerational equity. In alignment with SDG 4, the declaration calls for urgent action to reconstruct education systems, particularly in developing regions, to ensure no one is left behind.

Across the 57 member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), there is still more room for development in access to quality education, particularly among rural populations and youth affected by conflict or poverty. According to SESRIC’s Education and Scientific Development in OIC Countries report (2016), the average adult literacy rate in OIC countries was 74.5% in 2015, compared to the global average of 84.3%, and 87% in non-OIC developing countries. Youth literacy rates also lag behind, averaging 84.8% in OIC countries, versus 91.3% globally. These gaps are further compounded by labour market challenges: the youth unemployment rate in OIC member countries was estimated at 15.7% as of 2022, compared to the world average of 14.0% in the same period (State of Youth in the OIC Member States 2022). According to SESRIC’s 2024 SDG progress report, while 22 out of 41 OIC countries with available data have achieved or are on track to achieve the primary education completion rate target by 2030, the number drops significantly at higher levels, only 15 countries are on track for lower secondary, and just five for upper secondary education.

The OIC-2025 Programme of Action underscores the importance of enhancing access to quality education and promoting lifelong learning as a foundation for sustainable development. Complementing this, the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap (2020–2025) supports member states in aligning education systems with labour market needs, improving teacher training, and integrating innovation and digital tools into learning environments, particularly in support of youth employability and skills development.

This side event will bring together policymakers and development practitioners to explore breakthrough strategies for advancing education in the OIC region. It will highlight successful models, foster dialogue on inclusive innovation, and promote partnerships that can accelerate progress toward SDG 4. In support of poverty eradication efforts, this initiative reflects the WSSD2 declaration's emphasis on integrating quality education as a core component of poverty reduction strategies, with focused efforts on access, equity, and inclusion within a lifelong learning approach. To promote full and productive employment and decent work for all, it emphasizes investing in inclusive, quality education and skills development, especially for green and digital labour market transitions. Finally, it advances the goal of quality education and lifelong learning by advocating for accessible and future-oriented education systems that leave no one behind.

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***Key Themes to Be Covered***

- **Equitable Access to Education:** Addressing barriers faced by different groups of populations, including girls, refugees, and rural areas.
- **Digital Shift in Education:** Leveraging technology to modernize learning environments and bridge the digital divide.
- **Youth Empowerment and Innovation:** Promoting STEM education, entrepreneurship, and future-ready skills.

***Expected Outcomes***

- Identify actionable strategies to improve access and quality of education in OIC countries.
- Promote digital and innovative solutions to enhance learning outcomes and youth employability.
- Strengthen collaboration between OIC institutions, UN agencies, and development partners.
- Contribute to the global dialogue on inclusive education and social development at WSSD2.

***Methodology***

The panel discussion will begin with a keynote address framing the challenges and opportunities in changing education systems. Each panellist will present insights from their respective fields: policymaking, youth engagement, digital innovation, and international cooperation. A moderated discussion will follow, encouraging audience interaction and exchange of questions and answers. The session will conclude with a summary of key takeaways.

***Organiser(s)***

- SESRIC and Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations

***Proposed Venue and Date***

- **Time:** 4 November 2025, 04:45 PM - 06:00 PM (Doha time)
- **Venue:** Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha, Qatar (Room: 3)

**For more information, please contact:** [training@sesric.org](mailto:training@sesric.org)