



**15th Session of the
OIC-Statistical Commission (OIC-STATCOM)**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Distinguished Heads and Representatives of National Statistical Offices,
Representatives of International Organizations,
Respected Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

It is an honour to welcome you all to the 15th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-STATCOM) here in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Jeddah is not only the gateway to Makkah and Madinah, but also the home of the IsDB, OIC and some of its specialized institutions.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the General Authority for Statistics and SESRIC for co-hosting this important gathering, to H.E. Zehra Seljuk and her team for their work as Secretariat, and to the outgoing Chair, Bureau and participating institutions for their continued commitment to strengthening statistical systems across our member countries.

I would also like to make special mention of H.E. Dr. Fahad Aldossari, President of the General Authority for Statistics, and his team at GASTAT for generously co-hosting OIC-STATCOM for the second time in three years. This comes in a landmark year for Saudi Arabia and GASTAT, as they prepare to host the global statistical community at the upcoming UN World Data Forum in Riyadh from 9 to 11 November 2026. If you and your colleagues have not yet registered, I strongly encourage you to do so, as this Forum promises to be the most impactful to date.

For a development institution such as IsDB, reliable statistics are essential to understanding Member Country needs, directing resources effectively and assessing whether interventions improve people's lives. This matters given the scale of our engagement: as of end-June 2026, cumulative IsDB Group financing reached **US\$222.5 billion**, benefiting 134 countries worldwide.

As the OIC Programme of Action 2026–2035 takes shape, national statistical systems must move beyond reporting progress to informing policies and strategies. The Sustainable Development Goals provide a foundation for monitoring, but integrated analysis is needed to show how progress in one area can reinforce, or constrain, progress in another.

Our latest study shows that IsDB Member Countries have achieved an overall SDG score of 62.6 percent, reflecting meaningful progress but also significant gaps. As 2030 approaches, accelerating progress will require targeted, country-specific interventions, stronger partnerships and better use of data to direct resources where they are needed most.

I encourage this Session to agree on a focused set of follow-up activities: targeted training, exchanges among national statistical offices, shared methodological guidance and collaborative initiatives aligned with clearly identified country needs. Each activity should have a clear expected outcome, institutional lead, realistic timetable and practical mechanism for monitoring progress.

As we review implementation of the Commission’s Programme of Action for 2026–2030, let us focus on practical questions: Are institutions better equipped? Are priority data gaps being addressed? Is evidence reaching decision-makers and informing development choices?

On behalf of IsDB, I reaffirm our strong commitment to deepening collaboration with SESRIC, national statistical offices and development partners. We look forward to advancing a partnership that strengthens statistical capacity, facilitates knowledge exchange and contributes to more effective policies and improved development outcomes across our member countries.

Thank you.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته